FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2012 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description: Establishes Special Committee on University Governance

Government Unit(s) Affected: Legislative Administration Committee (LAC), Office of the Governor, Oregon University System (OUS)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

HB 4061 creates a ten-member Special Committee on University Governance. The special committee is charged with reviewing, discussing and analyzing issues of governance within the higher education system. The committee is required to begin work no later than April 15, 2012, and to complete a first draft of its recommendations and report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education by August 15, 2012. The committee must allow 30 days for public comment on the first draft. The special committee is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2012. The task force sunsets on the date of the convening of 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.

At this time, the fiscal impact of HB 4061 is indeterminate. The bill directs the committee to consult with national experts to examine best practices in models of university governance, and authorizes the committee to accept contributions of funds and assistance from any source public or private for this purpose. The fiscal impact is indeterminate depending on available contributions of funds. Currently, no source for donations has been identified.

The bill allows the task force to meet at times and places specified by the call of the chair or the majority of the voting members. The fiscal impact of meeting expenses is indeterminate depending on the geographic location of task force members, as well as the locations and frequencies of meetings. If the meetings are held outside the Capitol Building, possible facilities costs for the rental of meeting space may be incurred. The Legislative Administration Committee is required to provide staff support to the task force. The Legislative Assembly budget contains some funding for staffing and production of reports for interim committees. However, if the cumulative effect of the enactment of other bills exceeds expenditure levels assumed in the Legislative Administration's budget, Legislative Administration may need to seek additional resources.

The fiscal impact of HB 4061 is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact on the Office of the Governor and the Oregon University System (OUS). Committee membership is composed of four members from the House, four members from the Senate, and two members from the Oregon Education Investment Board. Non-legislative members of the committee are not entitled to compensation. The committee is required to consult with representatives from the Oregon University System, and the office of the State Treasurer. This fiscal assumes that committee membership and participation will have minimal impact on these agencies, and that any resulting work can be absorbed with existing resources. Each agency will have to reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the committee.