

HB 2345

Relating to critical infrastructure development

House Bill 2345 establishes the ten-member Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force. The task force is charged with making recommendations to the Legislature regarding participation in a west coast infrastructure exchange to partner with innovators in other states and regions on the west coast to evaluate the status of existing infrastructures and to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects, including but not limited to projects involving energy transmission and efficiency, water storage capacity, municipal water systems and wastewater management.

In addition, the bill provides that monies in the Marine Navigation Improvement Fund (MNIF) may be used to fund construction costs of dredging activities, and studies of maintenance projects related to existing federally authorized navigation improvement projects.

Your Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 2345 be reported out “do pass”.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Read
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Hansell

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 21, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the ten-member Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force charged with making recommendations to the Legislature regarding participation in a west coast infrastructure exchange partnering with innovators in other states and regions on the west coast to evaluate the status of existing infrastructures and to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects, including but not limited to projects involving energy transmission and efficiency, water storage capacity, municipal water systems and wastewater management. The task force is required to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2013. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2014. The bill contains an emergency clause, and takes effect on passage.

In addition, the bill adds language providing that monies in the Marine Navigation Improvement Fund (MNIF) may be used to fund construction costs of dredging activities, and studies of maintenance projects related to existing federally authorized navigation improvement projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers Oregon Infrastructure Report Card gave Oregon's infrastructure a C-. In 2012, Oregon in conjunction with California, Washington and British Columbia formed the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange to identify new methods to finance and facilitate infrastructure development. Currently, the exchange is a non-profit organization with coordination provided by the Oregon State Treasury and financial support provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. House Bill 2345 B establishes the Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding innovative practices related to public infrastructure including participation in the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange.

The federal government has in the past funded dredging and maintenance activities for Oregon's small coastal ports but no longer has the resources to do so. Oregon has an existing Fund for certain navigation infrastructure projects. House Bill 2345 B modifies the types and priority of projects eligible under the Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 2345 - B**Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Kim To
Reviewed by: John Borden, Paul Siebert, Steve Bender
Date: 5/31/2013

Measure Description:

Establishes the Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon State Treasurer, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon)

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:

House Bill 2345 establishes the ten-member Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force charged with making recommendations to the legislature regarding participation in a west coast infrastructure exchange to partner with innovators in other states and regions on the west coast to evaluate the status of existing infrastructures and to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects, including but not limited to projects involving energy transmission and efficiency, water storage capacity, municipal water systems and wastewater management. Recommendations should include creating and implementing new mechanism and strategies for financing critical infrastructure projects. The task force is required to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2013. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2014. The bill contains an emergency clause, and takes effect on passage.

The bill directs the State Treasurer and the Department of Administrative Services to provide staff support to the task force. 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. Members of the task force are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other expenses. DAS is required to cover claims for these expenses. This fiscal assumes that DAS and the State Treasurer will reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to support the task force, and that any resulting work can be absorbed with existing agency resources.

In addition, the bill adds language providing that monies in the Marine Navigation Improvement Fund (MNIF) may be used to fund construction costs of dredging activities, and studies of maintenance projects related to existing federally authorized navigation improvement projects. Currently the Oregon Business Development Department manages the MNIF, providing grants or loans to ports for federally authorized navigation projects requiring matching funds or for non-federally authorized navigation projects directly support or access a federally authorized navigation improvement project. The bill clarifies the types of navigation improvement projects that can be funded with MNIF monies. This provision does not result in a fiscal impact to the Oregon Business Development Department.