

HB 2386 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/01/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 6-4-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Hudson, Marsh, McLain, Reardon, Williams, Witt

Nays: 4 - Breese-Iverson, Cate, Post, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Stuty Maskey, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Independent Science Review Board (Board) consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. Describes the qualifications and expertise necessary to serve as Board members. Directs Board to elect its chairperson. Authorizes the Board to adopt rules necessary for its operation. Requires Board to receive, evaluate, and direct the Independent Scientific Review Secretariat (Secretariat) to convene independent scientific review panels to address requests for independent scientific review of complex, multidisciplinary issues that require involvement of multiple agencies. Identifies "Secretariat" as consisting of Board Administrator and all personnel employed in the Secretariat. Describes the Board's role and authority in the Secretariat's policies, procedures, and programs. Establishes Secretariat as administrative section within Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University. Authorizes Secretariat to develop programs and to administer funds in the Independent Scientific Review Fund. Requires the Secretariat to assist Board in identifying type of review necessary to serve as primary contact for matters related to Board and Secretariat to the public, supervise and assist in scope of work, and maintain list of experts available to participate in review panels. Allows Secretariat to conduct hearings and conferences; enter into agreements with other public bodies, the federal government, and associations or private persons; obtain assistance or data from any state agency; and perform other acts necessary. Authorizes the Board to appoint the Administrator of the Secretariat. Continuously appropriates moneys in Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for purposes of Board and Secretariat.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Meaning of "independent science"
- Role of industry scientists and experts from outside of Oregon or the US in the review process
- Concerns about uncertainty in science or the rapidly evolving science

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 202 establishing the Task Force on Independent Scientific Review for Natural Resources. The Task Force evaluated and assessed the need for independent science review in Oregon and made recommendations to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees. The final Task Force Report was submitted to the legislature in September 2016 and can be found here: http://inr.oregonstate.edu/sites/inr.oregonstate.edu/files/sb202_final_report.pdf. In 2017, Senate Bill 198 would have created the Oregon Independent Science Review Board, but was not enacted.

HB 2386 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2386 creates the Oregon Independent Science Review Board (Board) and establishes an Independent Scientific Review Secretariat (Secretariat) as the administrative section within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University (OSU). It continuously appropriates moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to OSU for purposes of the Board and Secretariat.