

**SB 623 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Frederick**Senate Committee On Education****Action Date:** 04/12/21**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/5, 4/7, 4/12**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Committee for Continuous Improvement. Directs State Workforce and Talent Development Board to consult with state workforce agencies and local workforce development boards to assess through the committee the effectiveness of the state's public workforce development system. Directs committee to contract with an independent consultant to conduct assessment of public workforce system and develop recommendations to prioritize services to individuals and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by September 30, 2021 and specifies requirements. Requires committee to submit assessment report and recommendations to State Workforce and Talent Development Board. Requires board to approve report and submit to Governor and interim legislative committees within 45 days of receipt. Directs committee to contract with an independent consultant to conduct biennial review and assessment of public workforce system and develop recommendations. Specifies requirements and objectives of biennial assessment. Requires committee to report on assessment to Governor and interim legislative committees biennially by December 15 of each even-numbered year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 wildfires
- Importance of coordination between state agencies and local workforce development boards
- Necessity of comprehensive assessment of current workforce system
- Overlapping priorities of economic and workforce development
- Importance of diversifying workforce

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 overhauled the country's workforce and job training framework at the state and local level, providing funding and a framework for one-stop delivery of workforce development services. The Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board coordinates statewide policy for workforce development through several state agencies, including the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), the Oregon Employment Department (OED), the Oregon Commission for the Blind (OCB), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), and the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon). In addition, nine local workforce development boards across the state operate a one-stop delivery system for workforce training programs.

Senate Bill 623 A establishes the Committee for Continuous Improvement to coordinate efforts between the State Workforce and Talent Development Board, state agencies involved in workforce development, and local workforce development boards to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and establish an ongoing evaluation

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framework for the state's public workforce development system.