

HB 4155 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology

Prepared By: Sean McSpaden, Committee Coordinator

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

House Bill 4155 establishes the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence as an independent, nonprofit public corporation charged with overseeing, coordinating, funding and providing cybersecurity education, awareness and training for public, private and nonprofit sectors, cybersecurity workforce development and cybersecurity-related goods and services to Oregon public bodies with a targeted focus on the unmet needs of regional and local governments, special districts, education service districts, K-12 schools, and libraries. The measure directs Portland State University, Oregon State University and University of Oregon to jointly operate the center by agreement and to provide administrative and staff support and facilities for the center. Further, the measure authorizes these universities to operate the center as a virtual center, in whole or in part, and modifies the composition and duties, powers and functions of the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council to serve as the governing body for the center.

House Bill 4155 establishes an Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence Operating Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the center to carry out the functions and operations of the center. The measure establishes an Oregon Cybersecurity Workforce Development Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the center to invest in cybersecurity workforce development programs. The measure establishes an Oregon Cybersecurity Grant Program Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the center to provide cybersecurity-related goods and services to Oregon public bodies. Further, the measure establishes an Oregon Cybersecurity Public Awareness Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to center to raise public awareness regarding cybersecurity threats and resources to be safer and more secure online.

House Bill 4155 becomes operative July 1, 2022, declares emergency, and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment deletes Section 1 regarding legislative intent, and would repeal and replace, rather than modify, existing statutes related to the Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council and Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence - i.e. ORS 276A.326 and ORS 276A.329, respectively. If adopted, the amendment would establish the Center at Portland State University with the Center to be operated under the joint direction and control of Portland State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon. The amendment would, as a standard procedure, transfer the Council from the office of Enterprise Information Services, where it currently resides, to Portland State University, on behalf of the Center. As the public universities directed to jointly operate the Center already have established governing boards named in ORS 352.054, the amendment would modify the role of the Council to serve as the advisory council for the Center.

BACKGROUND:

Ransomware and other cyberattacks threaten the nation's critical infrastructure, economy and public health and safety. The threats from ransomware and other cyberattacks continue to worsen each day for public, private and nonprofit sector organizations operating in Oregon and across the nation.

HB 4155 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

At the same time, Oregon and the nation face a shortage of qualified cybersecurity professionals to address these threats and vulnerabilities with an estimated 4,000-5,000 unfilled cyber jobs in Oregon across all sectors. Multiple cybersecurity workforce development and educational programs have been initiated within Oregon's public universities and community colleges over the past few years, but the leaders of these programs indicate they are unable to scale up to produce more qualified, trained graduates rapidly enough to fill this gap, without additional funding.

Meanwhile, the Federal government, via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, has created the state and local cybersecurity grant fund. This is a non-competitive, formula-based grant program that is expected provide Oregon with approximately \$15 million in federal funding (with required state matching funds) between federal FY 2022 and 2025. At least 80% of those funds must be distributed to local governments. Accessing those and other cybersecurity related grant funds will require coordinated governance, planning, grant application, distribution of funds, and project implementation among and between Oregon's state and local government representatives in the months and years to come.

Oregon's local and regional governments, education service districts, school districts and libraries have recently completed a variety of assessments that identify critical cybersecurity vulnerabilities and information technology modernization needs they cannot meet alone. They have asked for help from the Oregon Legislature and have indicated a willingness to work with state government, Oregon's public universities and community colleges, and others to address these problems via the proposed solutions contained within HB 4155.