

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 4092 - A

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Modifies composition and duties of Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and to broadband-related programs in Oregon.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Public Utility Commission (PUC), Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD), Oregon State Library (OSL)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal; however, they may require later budgetary action - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

House Bill 4092 A-engrossed changes the composition and duties of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to represent geographically diverse regions of the state and directs the council to establish a grant application review committee. The measure directs the council to report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology every year on the status of broadband strategies and a list of every grant or loan provided by the Oregon Broadband Office. The Oregon Broadband Office must develop a Broadband Action Plan and a Digital Equity Plan that addresses requirements of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA - P.L. 117-58) and to collect geospatial data for the purpose of assisting the state in confirming the allocations of federal funds and determining eligibility for grants and loans. The measure establishes the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund, which consists of any moneys deposited in the fund from whatever source. Moneys in the fund will be continuously appropriated to the Oregon State Library (OSL) for the purpose of providing matching funds for federal moneys received by OSL, the OSL Board, public libraries, school libraries, tribal libraries, or academic libraries to provide broadband access to eligible libraries in the state. The measure directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to investigate and make recommendations on the feasibility of expanding the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program to support broadband internet access services or other telecommunications services and report its findings to the Legislative Assembly. The measure takes effect on passage and most of its provisions become operative 91 days after adjournment *sine die*.

Oregon State Library

Before OSL may distribute any state moneys from the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund, the OSL Board must conduct rulemaking, including adopting rules setting criteria that govern the distribution of moneys to eligible libraries. While the measure is anticipated to have only a minimal fiscal impact on OSL, it nevertheless warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund.

Oregon Business Development Department

Because the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) is already planning to initiate the Broadband Action Plan and a Digital Equity Plan and geospatial data collection with existing staff and resources in the Oregon Broadband Office, the measure does not have an immediate impact on OBDD. However, it should be noted that the measure is complementary legislation to the anticipated broadband funding from the IIJA and the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2). As additional federal guidance on the use and outcomes of these additional

resources becomes more defined, OBDD will likely request additional staffing and funding for professional services to administer the broadband program.

Public Utility Commission

The measure directs PUC to investigate the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program and submit a report with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly by June 1, 2023. While PUC may need to consult with the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council, the Oregon Broadband Office and the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program Advisory Committee to conduct this investigation, the measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on PUC.