

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 776

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Reparations and directs task force to study and develop proposals for financial and nonfinancial reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent, develop appropriate methods for educating public about task force findings and recommend appropriate remedies based on task force findings.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Legislative Assembly, Legislative Policy and Research Office, Task Force/Committee/Workgroup

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

SB 776 creates the 13-member Task Force on Reparations which is to study and develop proposals for financial and nonfinancial reparations for Oregonians of African-American descent; recommend appropriate remedies; and develop methods for educating the public about their findings. The task force is to develop an interim report on their findings for public review, which identifies governmental actions that have resulted in harm to Oregonians of African-American descent. The task force is also directed to identify methods for eliminating racial bias in employment and advancement, especially for Oregonians of African-American descent that seek public employment or promotion to higher paying positions in government; identify methods for eliminating anti-Black discrimination policies in artistic, cultural, creative, athletic and intellectual life; and to identify individuals who should be compensated financially and with services that seek to remedy damage to the individual's mental or physical health from anti-Black healthcare systems and treatments.

The task force is to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to human rights no later than September 15, 2024. Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support for the task force, and the task force sunsets on December 31, 2024. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after the Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

The bill requires the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to provide staff support to the task force. LPRO assumes a minimal fiscal impact with existing staff to provide support to this task force. Assuming biweekly meetings over the year between when the task force convenes and when the report is due to the Legislature, this will require two Senior Legislative Analysts assigned part-time to the task force (each 0.25 FTE), one Research Analyst assigned with one-third of their time to the task force (0.17 FTE), and one Committee Assistant assigned part-time to the task force (0.25 FTE), at a total cost of \$298,611 using existing General Fund resources. Although LPRO's current service level budget supports interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

There is an additional indeterminate cost depending on if LPRO needs to contract for financial models and economic estimates to assist with the development of reparation proposals and defining who is eligible for monetary compensation. According to LPRO, this work was required of a similar reparations task force in California. This cost is initially estimated at \$100,000 to \$200,000. LPRO believes that additional costs could also result depending on the public engagement efforts required to educate the public about the findings of the task force. LPRO may need to contract for facilitation services depending on the scope of these efforts.

Legislative Assembly

The bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the Legislative Assembly. Four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Meetings are set by the chairperson and it is unknown how often the task force would meet. However, assuming the task force meets 24 times during the approximate 12-month period until its report is due September 15, 2024, the estimated per diem and travel reimbursement costs will total \$26,800. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, assumes the per diem remains at \$157 per day, and estimates an average mileage of 171 miles at the current rate of \$0.655 per mile. This estimate could change based on the number of meetings held. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during Legislative Session, or Task Force or interim Legislative Days.

Although the 2023-25 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.