



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

Legislative committees hurtle toward studying efficiency in government

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Even if the Oregon legislature's committee on tax reform doesn't pass a sought-after gross receipts tax this year, the committee may get one win. A new bill to study government efficiency has sailed through the committee, and appears headed for a hearing in the House.

The tax reform committee officially received House Bill 3469 on Monday, June 19. The committee discussed the bill in a work session the same day, and passed it along to the House Revenue Committee the next day. The revenue committee scheduled the bill for a public hearing today, June 21.



The text of HB 3469 is simple, lasting less than half of a page and capable of being fully described in one sentence:

"The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall conduct a study of government efficiency in this state," and shall report the findings to the legislature no later than September 15, 2017.

Opinions may differ on how efficiently government delivers services, and on how much sense

it makes to study that efficiency. One thing seems oddly apparent, though.

Scholars and business people the world over have studied the functioning of organizations for centuries. Companies of various sizes sometimes spend years searching for the right combination of strategy and tactics to achieve any useful change. The State of Oregon is no single company. It is a multi-billion-dollar conglomeration of hundreds of offices, divisions and programs with thousands of employees.



How can legislators think that any serious organizational examination could be completed in less than two and a half months and lead to any meaningful result?

Do you suppose you can predict what legislators will conclude after devoting such a mammoth amount of time to this study?

Use this link to share your views with your representative:

www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html

I look forward to your comments or questions. Look for me at this month's state Grange convention in Florence, or reach me at: govaffairs@orgrange.org.