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Innovative software sales approved by Senate

SB 528A allows state agencies to sell their state-of-the-art technology to boost revenue

SALEM—The Oregon Senate today cleared the path for agencies to sell innovative software designed to make government more efficient. Senate Bill 528A, which passed on a unanimous vote, will allow state agencies and the judicial and legislative branches to hold copyrights or patents and sell data processing programs to local, state, and federal government agencies.

“Oregon is no stranger to exporting innovative technologies and processes, and there’s even a demand out there for Oregon’s debt tracking software,” said Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-Beaverton), sponsor of the bill. “With SB 528A, we can foster an environment where state agencies can develop valuable, state-of-the-art software that delivers services more efficiently while increasing state revenues.”

In performing their duties to manage bond sales, Oregon State Treasury employees created a software program called “Bond Tracker.” Since developing and using the software in-house, the Treasury has received inquiries from other states that have expressed interest in licensing the software. Under SB 528A, agencies that develop data processing systems or other software can sell those technologies, with proceeds of sales directed to the state General Fund.

“Innovation often saves the state money, but this bill allows Oregon to bring in new revenue by trademarking our ingenuity and selling software to other states,” said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene). “SB 528A provides an incentive for agencies to create a culture of constant efficiency, which will ensure that taxpayers get the greatest value for every dollar.”

The bill also provides for agencies to hold patents and recoup the cost of developing the software and from the proceeds generated from the sale or license of the technology. This provision ensures that agencies can use those proceeds to offset costs to state agencies and taxpayers, with the remainder of the revenue going to reduce agency fees or returned to the general fund.

SB 528A heads to the Oregon House of Representatives for further action.

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