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Gary Wilhelms

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Tim Hibbitts
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PUBLIC COMMISSION ON THE OREGON LEGISLATURE

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September 2005 – Commission Update

The full commission met for the first time on September 6th. The commission heard introductory remarks from commission co-chairs Judge Laura Pryor and Gary Wilhelms and comments from Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House Karen Minnis. Next members learned about the constitutional and statutory requirements and limitations on the Legislative Branch with presentations from David Heynderickx, Acting Legislative Counsel and Steve Green, Willamette University, College of Law. Before and after lunch, commission members discussed the process and purpose and possible priorities of commission work.

At the September 6th meeting, committee membership was announced and October meeting dates for all committees were established as was the next full commission meeting date of November 7th. The Human Resources and Management Committees will meet jointly on October 3rd. The Public Institution Committee will meet on October 3rd also. The Facilities Committee will meet on October 12th. The Process Committee will meet on October 18th. All commission members are encouraged to attend any and all meetings they want to, in addition to the committee to which they are assigned.

During the month, staff continued to collect proposals from the public, local governments, legislators, staff and others. For management of workload, a soft deadline of September 29th was established to receive proposals. However, commission co-chairs and members continue to encourage anyone to send proposals in after the soft deadline.

Commission staff met with agency heads from small and large state agencies, the Oregon Progress Board and the Association of Oregon Counties to express the commission's interest in receiving input from all Legislative Branch stakeholders.

In September, staff also worked with Legislative Information Systems to start developing a website dedicated to the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature.