



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

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Rep. Whisnant introduces transparency and accountability bills for 2012

State Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) today announced he will focus on transparency and government accountability with two bills he will introduce for the February 2012 session.

“Oregon needs to address the PERS unfunded liability debt and the potential loss of federal funds,” Rep. Whisnant said.

David Walker, former Comptroller General and GAO director, recently predicted that the USA within three years will experience a debt crisis like Greece if our elected political leaders do not address the USA debt crisis including entitlements.

“I believe that Oregon –which suffered more than most states in the USA financial and housing crisis-will suffer equally worse in a debt crisis. “Thus, I drafted two bills which I hope will alert Oregon’s elected political leaders and citizens to the need to address Oregon’s debt,” Rep. Whisnant said. **The “Transparency PERS Liability Bill”** requires the PERS Board to create a link for the “Oregon Taxpayers Transparency Website” (www.oregon.gov/transparency) which lists the unfunded PERS liability for the state and individual counties, cities, school districts, and service districts.

The second bill, the **“Federal Receipts Reporting Bill,”** requires certain state agencies which receive significant federal funds to report on plans to continue services by downsizing or reorganizing if they lose federal funds. This bill is an American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) model legislation which was based upon Utah’s HB 138. Moody’s Investment Services recently acknowledged that they decided not to review the State of Utah for downgrading because Utah was the only state in the nation actively preparing to stand independent of federal funds.

Rep. Whisnant acknowledges, “Passing these two bills in the current political makeup in Salem will be difficult.” “However, I am proud I was a leader in the passage of HB 2500, the Taxpayers’ Transparency Website, in the 2009 session when my party was the super minority in both chambers.”

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