

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Beyer, Edwards C., Girod, Thatcher, Riley
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	1/25, 4/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies requirements for employer safety committees. Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt rules providing for alternative forms of safety committees and safety meetings.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for alternative to one-size-fits-all safety committees
- Input by industry in rulemaking process
- Delay in implementing rule changes that affect agricultural employers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** As Oregon's largest regulatory agency, the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small businesses. The Occupational Safety and Health Division, referred to as Oregon OSHA, operates under a state-plan agreement with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and works with business, labor, and other government agencies to provide every worker in Oregon with a safe and healthy workplace.

Current law requires safety committees for all employers with 11 or more employees, those employers with ten or fewer employees that have a Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART) rate in the top 10 percent of all rates for employers in the same industry, and employers with ten or fewer workers that are not agricultural employers and have workers' compensation premium rates in the top 25 percent for all classes. The purpose of safety committees is to bring workers and management together in a nonadversarial, cooperative effort to promote safety and health in the workplace, and to assist the employer by making recommendations for change. Safety committees differ in size based on the number of employees, and are comprised of equal numbers of employer and employee representatives. Minutes of safety committee meetings are taken and must be maintained by the employer for three years for inspection by Oregon OSHA. [OAR 437-001-0765]

House Bill 2222 revises the requirements for employers to form safety committees by requiring the DCBS Director to adopt rules for establishing and administering safety committees and/or holding safety meetings. The availability of alternate forms of safety committees, as well as the option for safety meetings, is designed to meet the needs of small employers, agricultural employers, and employers with mobile worksites.

4/9/2007 11:11:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*