

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 1 - 0
Yeas: Avakian, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski
Nays: Beyer
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 1/22, 2/12, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes unlawful debt collection practices an unlawful trade practice enforceable by the Attorney General.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Consumer and Business Services' regulations
- Enforcement by Department of Consumer and Business Services and Department of Justice

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law currently outlines the types of activities collection agencies cannot use when contacting debtors. Examples include threatening the seizure or sale of a debtor's property when such action can only be taken after court proceedings, and communicating or threatening to communicate with a debtor's employer concerning the nature or existence of the debt. Violations are only enforceable by private legal action.

SB 120 adds illegal debt collection practices to the list of unlawful trade practices under ORS 646.607, which will allow enforcement by the Attorney General.