

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Buckley, Gilman, Read, Smith G., Tomei, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Butler
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Judith Callens, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/7, 5/14, 5/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the Employment Department to provide information to the Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the purpose of collecting certain debts and delinquent taxes. Specifies that such information may include payroll data and names and addresses of employers and employees. Specifies that the information obtained remains confidential and prohibits disclosure of any such information by ODOT to any private collection agency or disclosure for any other purpose. Resolves conflicts with SB 197.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of collection efforts
- Purpose of obtaining employment records solely to locate individual
- Privacy and data safety issues; legal penalties for employees inappropriately releasing information
- Treatment of debt to state in bankruptcy proceedings

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Resolves conflicts with SB 197.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Transportation (ODOT) has an internal collection unit, used primarily for collecting delinquent weight-mile taxes on trucks, civil penalties owed by trucking companies, fuel taxes from sellers of fuel, and returned checks. According to the department, the total outstanding liquidated and delinquent debt in these categories is \$8.35 million, of which \$5.78 million or 69 percent relate to individuals who are personally liable and who are Oregon-based. Other Oregon agencies with internal collection units already have access to data collected by the Employment Department. The information from the Employment Department would include a wage earner's name, wage level, employer's name, and contact information. The Employment Department's address records are often more current than other records because they contain addresses where employees' unemployment benefits are sent. The recovered debt collected by the ODOT internal collections unit, after deducting costs of collection, becomes part of the state Highway Fund and is shared with cities and counties.