

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/25, 2/15

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 collection agency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of collections efforts
- Value of the employment records information – anticipated recovery levels
- Mechanism for obtaining the information – no download of database involved
- Recent problems in other settings with release or inappropriate acquisition of databases

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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 agency, the total outstanding liquidated and delinquent debt in these categories is \$11.8 million. About 50 percent of this debt is owed by carriers or persons based in Oregon. 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 internal collections unit, after deducting costs of collection, becomes part of the state Highway Fund and is shared with cities and counties.