

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barnhart, Dallum, Girod, Holvey, Lim, Riley, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Ellen Osoinach, Committee Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/25, 5/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** In relation to housing laws, expands definition of discrimination and repeals statute setting forth procedure for proving discriminatory impact of housing policy. Allows Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) or Attorney General to investigate and initiate case proceedings for violations of both state and federal fair housing laws. Allows BOLI or court to impose civil penalties for violation. Authorizes court to award attorney's fees to prevailing party.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Definition of familial status (families with children under 18)
- Reason for Oregon's delay in achieving substantial equivalency
- Actual cases of discrimination

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Expands purpose statement regarding unlawful discrimination in employment, public accommodations and real property transactions to include eradication of discrimination based on disability and familial status. Declares that Oregon's general public policy against unlawful discrimination includes familial status. Removes requirement that Department of Consumer and Business Services enter into an interagency agreement with BOLI to ensure compliance with building code provisions for disabled access. Resolves technical conflict in language with SB 2 and SB 83.

**BACKGROUND:** SB 725-A would make Oregon's statutes regarding discrimination in property transactions "substantially equivalent" with federal law in the provision of substantive rights, procedures, remedies, and judicial review provisions. For example, SB 725-A expands the definition of discrimination based on disability to include the failure to design and construct a multifamily dwelling as required by the federal Fair Housing Act. SB 725-A allows either party to remove a complaint from an administrative hearing to a circuit court and provides maximum civil penalties that may be imposed if a complaint is proven.

SB 725-A enables the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to contract with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to investigate federally-based housing discrimination complaints. Thirty-eight states already have "substantial equivalency" status.