

**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>	Avakian, Beyer, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Anna Braun, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires the Management-Labor Advisory Committee to study the adequacy of workers' compensation death benefits.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Amount of current benefits
- Support of the Management-Labor Advisory Committee
- Previous review ten years ago

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

**BACKGROUND:** Workers' compensation law establishes specific benefit amounts for the survivors of workers who die as a result of on-the-job injuries. Monthly benefits are provided for the spouse, dependent children, and other dependents. Fatality benefits are also provided to survivors of permanently and totally disabled workers upon their deaths, regardless of the cause. Fatality benefits are tied to the state's average weekly wage with annual cost of living increases paid by the Workers' Benefit Fund. In addition, a burial benefit of up to ten times the Oregon average weekly wage is provided .

SB 835 requires the Management-Labor Advisory Committee to conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of death benefits and report to the 75<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly. The evaluation is to include a review of the method of calculating benefits, burial amounts, categories of beneficiaries, and the feasibility of providing lump sum payments.