

2007 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 2702 **STATUS:** A-Engrossed
SUBJECT: Requiring state written documents to be in plain language
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: All state agencies
PREPARED BY: Adrienne Sexton
REVIEWED BY: Dallas Weyand, Robin LaMonte
DATE: April 2, 2007

| | <u>2007-2009</u> | <u>2009-2011</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| EXPENDITURES: See Comments. | | |

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The measure would require the Governor to name a state agency to be responsible for developing a state-wide plan to have executive branch agencies produce written documents that conform to plain language standards. Although not yet determined, it is assumed that either the Department of Administrative Services, which administers state-wide policies, or the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Office of Regulatory Streamlining would be the assigned agency.

The measure would require an unspecified agency to adopt the plan by November 1, 2007. The agency would report twice to the Legislative Assembly, first by February 1, 2008 and then January 1, 2009 on the activities of agencies to implement the plan, the training and resources provided to the agencies, an explanation of any measured impacts, and recommendations for further legislation.

The Office of Regulatory Streamlining reports that the intent of implementation is to develop a plan using specific agencies that have expressed an interest in this process within their budgeted resources, to determine the best methods of approaching the process to meet the measure's expectations that public communication is presented in plain language. Although the Legislative Fiscal Office cannot determine with certainty the implementation impact on subject agencies beyond the 2007-09 biennium, it is relying on public statements of the executive branch that subject agencies will not be expected to comply with the measure's requirements if such compliance exceeds their budgeted capacity.