

2008 Special Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 3639 **STATUS:** A-Engrossed
SUBJECT: Discrimination in property transactions
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Bureau of Labor and Industries
PREPARED BY: Dawn Farr
REVIEWED BY: Robin LaMonte
DATE: February 20, 2008

	<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2009-2011</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
See Analysis Section.		

REVENUES:
 See Analysis Section.

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage.

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: The budgetary impact of this bill was not reviewed and approved by the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee.

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.

ANALYSIS: The bill modifies Oregon's statutes relating to real property transaction discriminatory practices; stipulates that if the Attorney General or the Labor Commissioner has reason to believe that an unlawful practice under ORS 659.145 or 659A.421 or discrimination under federal housing law has occurred or is about to occur, they may file a complaint; establishes that final administrative dispositions of a complaint is to be no later than one year after receipt of the complaint; and stipulates disclosure conditions regarding complaints.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) indicates that the bill would make Oregon law related to lease or rental property transactions substantially equivalent to federal law. Currently, BOLI investigates approximately five housing discrimination complaints a year based on Oregon law. The Seattle District Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enforces federal law in Oregon and investigates 76 to 120 federal cases per year. BOLI indicates that passage of the bill would enable the Bureau to contract with HUD to investigate federally-based housing discrimination complaints. If BOLI were to contract with HUD, additional Federal Fund revenues could result along with Federal Fund expenditures to conduct investigations. BOLI anticipates that the HUD contract would ultimately result in a self-funded program (revenues would cover expenditures); however, some existing resources may need to be used during the start-up phase. The timing and cost of these potential expenditures is not known at this time. BOLI would need to return to the Legislative Emergency Board or a subsequent legislative session for Federal Funds expenditure limitation and position authority once a HUD contract has been awarded.