

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 1/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes language in required weekly certified statements of payroll records, for purposes of prevailing wage rate law, from “actual wages paid” to “gross wages earned.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Position of Bureau of Labor and Industries’ Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon’s Prevailing Wage Rate (PWR) law requires workers on public construction projects be paid wages and benefits found to be “prevailing” for similar work in or near the same locality. The law requires all contractors and subcontractors working on covered projects to file certified payroll records. Certified payroll reports include weekly totals of hours worked on a project, worker classifications, pay rates, fringe benefit contributions, and other payroll information. Contractors and subcontractors must complete a certified payroll for each week a worker is employed on a public works project and statements must be submitted once a month. Oregon’s PWR law is enforced by the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

Current statute requiring contractors to file certified payroll reports assumes contractors pay workers weekly, but many do not. Language in the statute that requires contractors to report on “actual wages paid” in a week causes difficulty for employers who do not have a weekly pay period, but rather pay monthly or bi-weekly. Changing the language to “gross wages earned” allows weekly reporting but does not require that the wages be paid weekly.