

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 10 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates the voluntary certification program for associations or organizations that represent entities or persons who sell, provide, or arrange travel and accommodations in Oregon. Transfers accumulated funds from the program to the General Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of certification program
- Estimated amount of accumulated funds
- Examples of unscrupulous behavior by “sellers of travel”

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon has regulated the travel industry in a variety of ways since the late 1980s, starting with statutory authority for the Attorney General to monitor “travel tours” and a mandatory registration system for most “sellers of travel.” In 1999, the mandatory system was replaced by a voluntary certification program which was intended to reduce the regulatory burden of individual registration for travel agents and agencies while providing oversight of the travel industry. The Oregon American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), requested and was granted certification, and relinquished its certification in May 2008. ASTA was the only association to seek the voluntary certification. No one currently participates in the program.

SB 109 eliminates the voluntary certification program and transfers accumulated funds, approximately \$65,000, to the General Fund.