75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session **MEASURE: CARRIER:**

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee on Rules

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Printed B-Eng.)

SB 284 B

Sen. Prozanski

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

> Yeas: Burdick, Metsger, Devlin

Atkinson, Ferrioli Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases the statute of ultimate repose for product liability actions, including wrongful death, to 10 years or the statute of ultimate repose of the state in which the product was manufactured or from which it was imported, whichever is later. Exempts manufactured homes. Applies to causes of action arising after the effective date. Exempts physicians unless involved in the manufacture or design of the product. Exempts product liability actions for damages from halide or mercury vapor light bulbs from being subject to any statute of repose. Applies retroactively to halide or mercury vapor light bulbs product liability suits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Exemption for halide or mercury vapor light bulbs product liability suits
- Constitutionality of "Look Away" provision

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Revives a cause of action in which a final judgment has been entered on or after January 1, 2008 for death, personal injury or property damage for halide or mercury vapor light bulb products that occurred before January 1, 2010. A revived civil action must be filed within one year of the effective date of the act.

BACKGROUND: The statute of ultimate repose is the time limit under which any product liability action for personal injury or property damage must be commenced. The time limit is currently eight years.