

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure (Printed B-Eng.)
Signers of the Report: Sen. Atkinson and Sen. Ferrioli
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/29

WHAT THE MINORITY REPORT DOES: Declares public policy. Prohibits state interference in communications between employers and employees, and state restriction of employer's free speech. Prohibits state restriction of employer communication to employees on effects of political matters and labor organizations on workplace activities or functions. Prohibits state restrictions on communications of religious matters by employers with religious focus. Refers Act to vote of the people in next general election.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition of "political matter"
- Definition of "bona fide religious organization"

EFFECT OF MINORITY AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Current law does not generally restrict the ability of employers to communicate with employees, or restrict the nature of such communications. Existing state law does provide for some narrow exceptions to employer free speech for communications that would constitute harassment or discrimination (ORS Chapter 659), or coercive speech as an unfair labor practice (ORS Chapter 243), or common law libel or slander.