

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/7, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Transfers abandoned property from a lawyer trust account to the Oregon State Bar for the benefit of funding the Legal Services Program. Requires report to Department of State Lands (DSL) indicating property is a lawyer trust account. Forwards any claims on the property to the Oregon State Bar. Requires rulemaking by Department of State Lands and the Oregon State Bar.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether the transfer sets precedent for abandoned funds
- Claims process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Substantially replaces the original measure.

BACKGROUND: Currently, abandoned property is transferred to the Department of State Lands. Property becomes unclaimed if the owner cannot be contacted by the holder of the asset within a specified period of time. Examples of unclaimed property include savings or checking accounts, uncashed payroll or dividend checks, or safe deposit box contents. Unclaimed money is held in trust forever. Interest earnings benefit Oregon's K-12 school children, along with other income earned by the department, through the Common School Fund.

Lawyer trust accounts are required for every practicing lawyer. Client funds are placed in the account. Any interest on those funds currently goes to fund the Legal Services Program. SB 687 A requires abandoned property from those accounts to be transferred to the Oregon State Bar for benefit of the Legal Services Program.