

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 3 - 2 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, Dingfelder, Prozanski
Nays: Boquist, Whitsett
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes the Consumer Protection and Education Revolving Account to the Department of Justice Protection and Education Revolving Account. Adds criminal environmental lawsuits to antitrust suits and consumer protection suits that are funded by the account. Requires excess funds over Department of Justice estimate to be returned to general fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Require Department of Justice to return surplus funds to the general fund
- *Cy-pres* funds (those that are *de minimis* or victim could not be found) into general fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Caps the account, makes limitations on spending the money and sets out provisions where money goes directly to the general fund. Removes civil right suits.

BACKGROUND: Money from judgments and settlements, including damages and attorney fees from state and federal antitrust suits, go into the existing Consumer Protection and Education Revolving Account. Civil penalties under the unlawful trade practices act do not go into the account.

SB 797A expands the type of lawsuits that go into the fund. Department of Justice uses the account to fund further litigation in those areas.