76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2011 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2040 A CARRIER: Sen. Boquist

Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, George, Monroe, Shields

Nays: 0 Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies required information included in a written notice to employers regarding non-payment of wages to an employee. Modifies the length of time unclaimed wages collected by Bureau of Labor and Industries must be held before wages are forfeited to the state. Makes the Bureau's minimum wage poster available to employers from either the Bureau's website or directly from the Bureau upon request. Changes the term of "firefighters" to "boiler operators" in statute that exempts certain manufacturing workers from daily overtime and maximum daily hours restrictions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Mailing of informational posters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: When the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) collects wages and other compensation on behalf of a claimant and is subsequently unable to locate the claimant to turn over the collected moneys, ORS 652.405 requires the Bureau to continue attempt to return the collected moneys for a period of seven years. However, this is inconsistent with the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, which specifies that any property unclaimed by the owner for more than three years is to be turned over to the Department of State Lands (DSL) to be held in the Common School Fund. House Bill 2040-A amends current law to require that unclaimed wages and compensation collected for a claimant that go uncollected for three years are to be remitted to DSL as required by the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

House Bill 2040-A also amends ORS 653.050 to allow employers to obtain required wage and hour law summaries from BOLI's website and by mail upon request. This is to assist employers in compliance with the statutory requirement that employers display certain wage and hour laws.

Finally, House Bill 2040-A changes the term "firefighter" to "boiler operator" in ORS 652.020. The term "fireman," used previously in statute, was erroneously changed to "firefighter" several years ago by legislation designed to make certain terms gender neutral. "Fireman" is an outdated term that has since been replaced by "boiler operator."