76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2011 Regular Session   **MEASURE: HB 2060**
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   **CARRIER: Sen. George**
Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, Boquist, George, Monroe, Shields
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Oregon Employment Department to disclose employment-related information to the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority to assist in the collection of debts. Prohibits subsequent disclosure by the Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority to private collection agencies or use of information other than for collection of debts. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
  • Designed to improve customer service

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Under current law, the Oregon Employment Department (OED) is authorized to disclose information to specified entities for specified purposes, including the collection of debts by the Department of Transportation. Within the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Overpayment Writing Unit is currently authorized to access OED data, but the Overpayment Recovery Unit is not. While the recovery specialists use alternative sources, the OED data is more timely, complete, and accurate.

Earlier legislation authorized data sharing, but the U.S. Department of Labor, which oversees the administration of Oregon's unemployment insurance program, requires a specific authorization in state law to allow the disclosure.

Allowing the disclosure of information to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Oregon health Authority (OHA) will allow those agencies to recover debts. The disclosure will also allow DHS to comply with Federal regulations which state that the agency "should use…employment insurance files" to locate individuals who have "outstanding overpayments" in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program.

5/3/2011 9:16:00 AM
This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2011 Regular Session