

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 3 - 0 - 2

Yeas: George, Monroe, Shields

Nays: 0

Exc.: Bonamici, Boquist

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Business Development Department to explore the feasibility of establishing a Business Ombudsman to provide specific information on a website related to new or prospective small businesses, and methods by which small businesses could ask questions or direct complaints regarding doing business in Oregon. Specifies that such information could be located either on the Department's website or another state agency's website. Requires the Department to report to the Legislative Assembly with conclusions on the feasibility study no later than the convening date of the 2013 regular session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to assist small businesses navigate state laws
- Potential cost of an ombudsman program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2770-A directs the Business Development Department to explore the feasibility of establishing the position of the Business Ombudsman within state government, in consultation with the Governor's office and other state agencies. The measure also requires the Department to look at the feasibility of the Ombudsman providing and maintaining information on either the Department's website or another state agency's website pertaining to starting and operating a small business in Oregon. Information that is to be contained on the website includes the contact information and description of services for each appropriate state agency or technical provider that provides assistance to or performs regulatory and permitting activities that affect new or prospective small businesses, and methods by which new, prospective, or established businesses can ask questions or direct complaints regarding doing business in this state, or with public entities located in Oregon.

House Bill 2770-A also requires the Department to report to the Legislative Assembly on its findings no later than the convening date of the 2013 regular session.