



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CIVIL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 27, 2013

TO: Chair Jeff Barker
House Judiciary Committee, Members

FROM: Aaron Knott, Legislative Director

SUBJECT: HB 3283

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This testimony is presented in support of HB 3283. We recommend that the Committee approve HB 3283 with a do pass recommendation.

BACKGROUND ON HB 3283

- ORS 180.640, enacted by the legislature in 1983, created the Criminal Justice Revolving Account. This account was established to allow the Department of Justice to place all monetary awards for the cost of the investigation and prosecution of ORS 180.640, pertaining to racketeering or "RICO" (Racketeer Influenced or Corrupt Organizations Act) into the Revolving Account.
- This account would include all damages awarded to reimburse costs of investigation and prosecution, including attorney fees and civil penalties.
- Moneys contained in the revolving account are used to reimburse the Department of Justice, district attorneys and state and local governmental departments and agencies for the costs of the investigation and prosecution of any civil or criminal action made under the RICO statutory provision.
- This account was capped at \$750,000 with any remainder or excess to be remitted to the General Fund.

HOW HB 3283 WILL SUPPORT THE EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF RICO OFFENSES

- While the \$750,000 cap may have been ample at the time of the creation of the fund, inflation and a profound growth in the scope and magnitude of organized crime operations throughout Oregon have rendered this fund less and less effective at providing

the seed money necessary to encourage the effective prosecution of this growing problem.

- HB 3283 would raise the cap from \$750,000 to \$2,500,000. By statute this money would be dispersible only to support and recompense RICO prosecutorial efforts and would not be available for other purposes, interior to or exterior from the Department.

DOJ CONTACT

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