Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Creates specific provisions relating to garnishment by Department of Revenue.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Revenue(DOR)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Please see analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure creates a special garnishment process for the Department of Revenue (DOR) within the existing statutes relating to garnishment. Under the bill DOR would be exempted from the requirement to deliver a warrant or a true copy of the warrant with the notice of garnishment and the physical signing of garnishment notices by the person issuing the notice.

DOR has issued an average of about 80,000 garnishments a year for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, although fiscal year 2011 garnishments were 40% higher than fiscal year 2010. The department issued garnishments for personal income taxes, employee withholding, and debts owed to other state agencies. DOR estimates that this legislation will create operational efficiencies allowing for the repurposing of collection resources or the reduction in fractional FTE across multiple collections positions resulting in Personal Services savings of \$133,000 General Fund and \$57,000 Other Funds for the 2013-15 biennium and \$235,200 General Fund and \$100,800 Other Funds for the 2015-17 biennium. These savings are net of the cost of implementing the measure.