

**HB 3315-A**  
**Related to Forest Land Employment**

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HB 3315-A left the House Business and Labor Committee by 10-0 vote in favor, on April 17. The bill requires the Oregon Employment Department to inform employers and the U.S. Department of Labor if it becomes aware that an employer with a federal contract to conduct forest maintenance is out of compliance with certain requirements of the H-2B program. The measure also requires the Employment Department to notify the Department of Labor, union halls, and community agencies that jobs have been listed under the H-2B program and to periodically inform employers regarding local availability of Oregon resident workers. H-2B is a program that permits employers to hire nonimmigrant workers to perform nonagricultural labor or services in the U.S. on a temporary, limited basis. House Bill 3315 A is intended to ensure that U.S. workers are getting every opportunity to take advantage of forest thinning work rather than being passed over in favor of foreign workers on H-2B visas.

The bill has no fiscal impact to the Oregon Employment Department.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 3315-A be reported out with a “do pass” recommendation.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Whisnant  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Hansell

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

**Vote:**

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

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**Meeting Date:** May 17, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Employment Department (OED) to inform employer and U.S. Department of Labor if Department becomes aware, in normal course of business, that employer has federal contract to conduct forest maintenance and is not in compliance with certain requirements under H-2B program. Requires OED to confirm whether listed forest maintenance activity jobs under H-2B program are available to Oregon resident workers. Requires OED to notify U.S. Department of Labor, union halls, and community agencies serving unemployed Oregon workers that job has been listed under H-2B program. Requires OED to prominently display in public locations information about jobs listed under H-2B program. Requires OED to periodically inform employers of workers in forest maintenance activity jobs regarding local availability of Oregon resident workers.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The amendment adopted by the policy committee resulted in no fiscal impact to the Employment Department; however, the subsequent referral to Ways and Means failed to be rescinded.

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The bill has no revenue and no fiscal impact. The subsequent referral to Ways and Means was not rescinded in time to avoid Ways and Means consideration.