

REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact, no statement issued

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Close, Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds business entities as a protected person for purposes of identity theft. Increases penalties for filing false corporate documents with the Secretary of State from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor. Requires corporations to maintain a physical presence where a registered agent can be served. Allows the Secretary of State's Office to verify physical address. Allows Secretary of State to withdraw document filed in error within one year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns about sharing information with law enforcement
- Alternatives to P.O. Box on Secretary of State's website

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removed section of the bill which allowed disclosure to other law enforcement entities.

BACKGROUND

Business identity theft (also known as corporate or commercial identity theft) is a form of identity theft. A criminal can change the corporate registration information of a business, such as altering the names of the corporate officers, and then use the business's corporate registration history along with additional false documents to establish lines of credit with banks or retailers. Senate Bill 141 A is an attempt by the Oregon Secretary of State to proactively deal with this problem after cases in Colorado and Georgia highlighted the issue.