77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Government Efficiency

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass **Vote:** 9 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Doherty, Johnson, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Richardson, Smith, Thatcher, Vega Pederson, Holvey

MEASURE: HB 2914

CARRIER: Rep. Gomberg

Nays: 0 Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Bob Estabrook, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/26, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases value of money or goods found that must be reported to county clerk and advertised for reclamation by owner from \$100 to \$250.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expectation of good behavior by finders of property
- Legal requirement for ownership transfer
- Cost of posting notice in newspaper
- Effect of inflation on dollar's value

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law requires a person who finds money or goods worth \$100 or more to provide written notice of the finding to the clerk of the county where the money or goods was found within 10 days. The law further requires that the finder publish, in a newspaper of general circulation, at least two consecutive weekly notices of the found property within 20 days. Three months from the date of notice to the county clerk, the finder gains ownership of the found property. Oregon law provides that found property not reported to the county clerk and advertised as required may be forfeited to the county for attempt to return it to the owner and, if it remains unclaimed, contribution to the county general fund. House Bill 2914 sets the minimum value of property subject to the existing requirements at \$250 instead of \$100.