77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2698 A **CARRIER: Rep. Thompson**

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee on Business & Labor

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

> Barton, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Thompson, Witt, Doherty Yeas:

Navs:

Exc.: Weidner

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies authority of Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to appoint building inspectors in multiple specialty codes. Allows Director to appoint building inspector to perform inspections throughout a geographic region. Allows Director to consider factors specific to geographic regions when determining qualifications of inspectors. Gives Director authority to initiate rules to promote clarity in state building code and in licensing requirements. Eliminates sunset on provisions for training, qualifying and certifying specialized building inspectors.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Success of pilot program created in 2009
- Efficiencies realized for government and consumer
- Ability to customize training to meet local needs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires Director to consult with appropriate advisory boards when determining qualifications of inspectors authorized to enforce multiple specialty codes or parts of a specialty code. Allows Director to consider factors specific to geographic regions when determining qualifications of inspectors. Allows Director to use field training equivalency, independent evaluations or other methods in determining scope of certifications and qualifications of inspectors.

BACKGROUND: A pilot program was created in 2009 (House Bill 3462) with the intent to cross-train building inspectors so an inspector could perform an inspection in more than one specialty code. These inspectors are referred to as specialized building inspectors. The pilot program (scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2016) was designed to address the shortage in some regions of the state of building inspectors in various specialty codes. House Bill 2698-A eliminates the sunset date, thereby continuing the training, qualification, and certification of specialized building inspectors.