

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: Roblan

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes amount of money received from federal government that Department of Transportation must expend to increase diversity in highway construction workforce and prepare individuals interested in entering highway construction workforce by conducting specified activities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Anticipated need for skilled, trained workers in next five years due to both attrition through retirement and increased need for these types of human resources
- Demonstrated ability of mentorship and apprenticeship programs to generate skilled workers to meet anticipated needs of industry
- Current funds and fund distribution as restricted by existing state and federal law
- Existing programs clustered generally in Portland area; desire to populate other parts of state with new programs based on current working models
- Desire to increase awareness in specific communities that are historically underrepresented in and unaware of the types of jobs addressed by the measure
- No objection during committee hearing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 831 is intended to increase support for minority, women, and emerging small businesses in the construction trades. There has been broad rhetoric in support of this type of initiative.