77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2698 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen. Starr

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Edwards, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen, Beyer

Nays: 0 Exc.: Girod

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/29

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 inspectors to perform inspections throughout geographic region. Allows Director to consider factors specific to geographic regions when determining qualifications of inspectors. Grants Director authority to initiate rules to promote clarity in state building code and in licensing requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Regional approach to building inspection
- Potential to benefit rural Oregon
- Improved efficiency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Assembly created a pilot program with the passage of House Bill 3462 (2009) for the purposes of cross-training building inspectors so that 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 of building inspectors in some regions of the state, particularly in certain specialty codes. House Bill 2698-A eliminates the sunset date on the program to continue the training, qualification and certification of specialized building inspectors.