

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/2

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies definition of small employer to allow those headquartered within the state to qualify as small employers.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Under Oregon’s health care regulation law an employer can qualify as a small employer if the majority of their employees are located within Oregon. Thus whether an employer is headquartered inside or outside of Oregon, they need over 50 percent of their employees to be located in Oregon to qualify as a small employer. Currently, it is not possible for an employer to qualify as a small employer if they are located in Oregon but have employees outside of the state. Therefore virtual firms and remote workers do not qualify. There has been a rise in virtual firms and remote workers in the U.S., and Global Workplace Analytics reports that between 2005 and 2012 telecommuting has increased 79 percent. The 2013 American Community Survey found that 3.3 million of the U.S. workforce considered home their place of work.