

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Health Care

MEASURE: SB 146
CARRIER: Sen. Knopp

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/09/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/02, 03/09

Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of “small employer” to allow those headquartered within the state to qualify as small employers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history does not explain definition
- Small and growing companies have dispersed workforces
- Law enacted in 1990s predates widespread internet usage
- Alignment with Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No 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. Therefore, employers headquartered in Oregon need over 50 percent of their employees to be located in Oregon to be designated as a “small employer” for insurance purposes. This has reportedly been problematic for virtual firms and remote workers. There has been a rise in virtual firms and remote workers in the U.S., with the Global Workplace Analytics reporting that between 2005 and 2012, telecommuting has increased 79 percent. The 2013 American Community Survey found that 3.3 million people in the U.S. workforce considered home their place of work.