



# MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2015

To: Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

From: Theresa Van Winkle, Senior Policy Advisor

Subject: Senate Bill 100

I was asked by the bill sponsors to provide input on Senate Bill 100. Due to scheduling conflicts, please accept my written testimony in lieu of not being able to attend in person.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) is required under this bill to work with the Business Development Department (OBDD) to conduct a study about barriers to all Oregon businesses and occupations as a result of regulation. Although DCBS is the state's largest business regulatory agency, we are not the sole agency responsible for occupational licenses. There are more than one thousand different occupational licenses and certifications managed by dozens of state agencies, boards, and commissions. As such, the scope of the study is extremely broad. A thorough analysis of every single regulation and license could take decades to complete.

Although Senate Bill 100 allows both agencies to narrow the study's scope and convene an advisory committee to guide conduct of the study, we would be concerned about meeting the bill sponsors' and stakeholders' expectations of providing a timely and useful report. In our experience, concerns about business regulations tend to fall in particular areas. Given the level of interest in the study's content, it may be useful to establish specific topics to be included in the study.

Due to the wide ranging topics and potential depth of research for completing a study of this nature, DCBS has an indeterminate fiscal impact for the bill as currently drafted. While we appreciate the ability for OBDD and DCBS to seek outside funding resources and utilize external research resources such as higher education institutions, the bill is currently silent on how the study shall be financed by the two agencies. Should there be a need to hire outside consultants to develop the study or prepare the final report, it is unclear which agency would bear the costs. Also, neither agency can predict the level of success for obtaining donations, gifts, grants, and other funding at a level sufficient to cover all study costs. If the bill passes, DCBS would use existing staff to collaborate with OBDD to meet the bill's requirements, and will have to prioritize other statutory responsibilities accordingly in order to absorb the additional workload. However, given the potential cumulative impact of 2015 enacted legislation effecting DCBS in particular, the amount of time existing staff can devote to the study could be lower than currently anticipated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Senate Bill 100.