



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Director's Office
350 Winter Street NE, Room 200
PO Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405
Voice: 503-378-4100
Fax: 503-378-6444
www.dcbs.oregon.gov

April 1, 2015

The Honorable David Gomberg
The Honorable Betsy Johnson
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on
Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Responses to Committee Members' Questions

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

During the course of the subcommittee's hearing of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) budget (HB 5012) on March 31, members requested additional information and asked questions to which we would like to respond.

1. How does DCBS promote the Small Business Ombudsman?

DCBS promotes the office of the Small Business Ombudsman through education and outreach. To build awareness of services, DCBS works with small business development centers, trade groups, small business fairs, other agencies, and employer groups. Examples include:

- Attending small business fairs (Portland and Medford), Governor's Marketplace, and Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) events;
- Advertising in publications that serve the Hispanic, Asian, and Russian communities and contributing to newsletters published by community colleges, chambers of commerce, and other organizations that serve small businesses;
- Distributing brochures to chambers of commerce, legal clinics, and SBDCs;
- Partnering with the Construction Contractors Board and SBDC to offer classes on workers' compensation.

2. How many people are covered by the City of Portland Police and Fire Disability and Retirement Fund?

There are about 1,600 people covered under this system.



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3. How many people receive both disability benefits under workers' compensation law and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits?

We do not know the total number of people who receive both types of benefits because the department receives only limited information about one category of disability benefits (permanent total disability). We also do not know about people receiving workers' compensation benefits through federal programs or the City of Portland program. Based on the limited information we have, we are aware of 144 people who receive SSDI and permanent total disability benefits.

Federal and state law provide offsets to adjust the benefit levels when a person receives both workers' compensation benefits and SSDI benefits.

I hope this information is helpful to you and the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Allen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick M. Allen
Director