

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Workforce

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

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

**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:**

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 4/6, 4/15

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Defines “public works” project for the purpose of applying prevailing wage as ones that use the funds of a private entity and at least \$750,000 of funds of a public agency for construction, reconstruction, painting or major renovation on a publicly or privately owned road, highway, building, structure or improvement. Becomes operative on January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

(-1) Removes requirement of private investment from definition of “public works” project.

**BACKGROUND:** Under Oregon law, the hourly wage for the workers of any contractor performing a public works contract must be equal to or greater than the prevailing wage rate. The Bureau of Labor and Industries sets the prevailing wage rate based upon the specific trade and region where the workers perform the labor. Currently, prevailing wage requirements only apply to work that is performed on privately owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements.

Senate Bill 137 changes the definition of “public works” to include both projects on privately owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements as well as projects on publicly owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements.