



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

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April 10, 2015

The Honorable David Gomberg
The Honorable Betsy Johnson
Joint Ways and Mean Subcommittee on
Transportation and Economic Development
State Capitol, 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 and April 1, members requested additional information and asked a question to which we would like to respond.

Building Codes Division

- Do you need a permit in the state to replace a broken water heater?

Yes, a permit is required for both electric and gas type appliances. Homeowners performing do-it-yourself water heater replacements require a permit from the local building department. Upon completion, the local official would then perform an installation inspection for the specific installation. If the work occurred where the state performs these services (Umatilla County, except for the City of Coos Bay and North Bend), the price is \$135.52 for an electric water heater and \$85.20 for a gas water heater. As a comparison, our records indicate Klamath County would charge \$211 and \$192.64, respectively.

The Building Codes Division developed the Minor Label program to streamline the process for contractors purchasing individual permits from the local building program where the work occurs. The Minor Label program allows contractors to pre-purchase sheets of 10 labels/permits and used those permits in the community. The cost for the sheet of 10 labels/permits is \$140. One permit is then selected randomly from the sheet of 10, as a "quality control" inspection.

DCBS has scheduled a follow-up meeting with Representative Whitsett to present this information and address any further questions regarding Building Codes.



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Workers' Compensation Board

- Could you provide a sense of scale for the costs involved in mediation cases?

For FY 2014, the Workers' Compensation Board conducted 420 mediations. Mediations run an average of 10 hours at an estimated cost of \$2,088 per event. Mediations make up approximately one-third of the Board's workload.

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

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Allen
Director