

SB 5503

Commission for the Blind

SB 5503 is the budget bill for the Commission for the Blind. The agency's programs are focused on two main objectives: employment and independence for Oregonians who are blind or visually impaired. The agency provides employment and technology services, training, supported employment programs, and small business opportunities.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$16.2 million, including \$2.9 million General Fund, and 56 positions. The budget is about half of one percent less than the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget.

The budget includes three new rehabilitation instructors to address the increasing population of Oregonians who are 55 and older and visually impaired or blind. As approved, the budget meets federal maintenance of effort requirements, and allows the agency to match all available federal funds.

The agency's performance measures were reviewed and approved.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 5503 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass as amended.