

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Business and Labor

MEASURE: HB 2921

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/09/15

Action: Do Pass. Refer To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/09

Vote:

Yeas: 10 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Fagan, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse

Nays: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Commissioner of Labor and Industries to use Wage Security Fund to administer and enforce laws governing wages, hours, and employment conditions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current use of Wage Security Fund
- Use of liens to recover moneys paid out of Wage Security Fund
- Stability of the Fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Wage Security Fund was established by the Legislative Assembly in 1985 and is administered by the Bureau of Labor and Industries. The fund protects Oregon workers from wage loss by paying the final wages owed to employees when a plant or company closes without sufficient funds to pay final wages. Money for the fund comes from an employer-paid tax of .03 percent of wages subject to the state's unemployment insurance tax that occurs during the first calendar quarter of each odd-numbered year. The State Treasurer is responsible for investing the moneys in the fund, and all income earned on the moneys accrues to the fund.

House Bill 2921 allows the Wage Security Fund to be used for the expanded purpose of enforcing the provisions of Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 652 (wage and hour) and Chapter 653 (minimum wage and employment conditions).