

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/16/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Judiciary By Prior Reference (Printed A-Eng).

Meeting Dates: 02/11, 03/16

Vote:
Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Rosenbaum, Thatcher
Nays: 1 - Knopp

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Commissioner of Bureau of Labor and Industries to issue warrants for debts not paid within 30 days of the due date. Requires warrants include the principal amount of the debt, any interest, and other costs. Requires warrants be filed with the clerk of any county in the state and be mailed to the debtor at the debtor's last known address. Requires entry of judgment and expiration of time period for notice of appeal before Commissioner can issue warrants.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Tolling period
- Uses and importance of warrants
- Industries of greatest impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires entry of judgment and expiration of time period for notice of appeal before Commissioner can issue warrants.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, when an order for wages has been finalized or a settlement reached, employers are required to deliver payment for those wages due to workers. According to the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), some employers move assets or change business names to avoid payment of wages. As a result, some employees are never paid the wages they earned. In total, BOLI has recorded around \$17 million in unsatisfied judgments in the last 10 years.

Senate Bill 468-A authorizes BOLI to issue warrants for debts not paid within 30 days of the due date. These warrants must include the principal amount of the debt, any interest, and other costs, and they must be filed with the county clerk and be mailed to the debtor at the debtor's last known address.