

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water**

**MEASURE: HB 2734 A**

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**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 03/17/15  
**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To  
Transportation And Economic Development By Prior Reference.  
**Meeting Dates:** 02/17, 03/17  
**Vote:**  
Yeas: 7 - Clem, Gilliam, Gomberg, Helm, McLane, Post, Witt  
**Prepared By:** Ian Davidson, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes local governments to create land bank authority. Details authority and duties of land bank authority and composition of land bank authority board. Requires member of land bank authority board to file statement of economic interest with Oregon Government Ethics Commission. Provides land bank authority powers and responsibilities. Defines terms. Exempts land bank authority from liability of remedial action costs or for damages for any spill or release of oil or hazardous material at facility acquired by authority under certain conditions. Permits governing body of city or county to grant property tax abatement against taxes imposed on brownfield if certain conditions are met, including, but not limited to, environmental site assessment. Specifies amount of abatement allowed. Authorizes governing body of city or county to modify abatement on reliable documentary evidence.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Legal liability of land bank authority
- Role of Prospective Purchaser Agreement for brownfields

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

As defined in ORS 285A.185, a "brownfield" means real property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfields must be cleaned up before they can be reused for jobs, housing, and other community needs.

House Bill 2734 A would authorize cities and counties to organize land banks which could take ownership of brownfields with immunity from legal liability for legacy contaminations. During the period of ownership, these land bank authorities would be offered tax abatements for brownfield cleanup and redevelopment. House Bill 2734 A also details the authority and duties of land bank authorities and composition of land bank authority boards.