

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 04/02/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/02

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Boquist, Edwards, Hass, Riley

**Prepared By:** Kyle Easton, Economist

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Specifies jurisdiction over safety and health inspection standards for agricultural workforce housing. Defines circumstances and procedure to obtain abatement and refund of applicable property taxes for years beginning on or after July 1, 2014 and before July 1, 2016. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Administration of exemption under current law
- Authority of Oregon OSHA to inspect properties
- Potential new properties that may not receive exemption in future without law changes

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

To receive certain property tax exemptions relating to property used for agricultural production, housing provided to farm workers must meet certain health and safety standards. Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) doesn't have jurisdiction to certify off-farm and community-based housing for farm workers. This type of housing must independently satisfy local, state, and federal building codes, which include fire marshal oversight.

House Bill 2610A updates statutes on safety and health inspection for off-farm and community-based agricultural workforce housing by moving responsibility for health and safety inspection and certification from OSHA to entities that enforce local, state, and federal building codes. The bill also defines the circumstances and procedure to obtain abatement and refund of applicable property taxes for the 2014 and 2015 tax years.