

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Workforce**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

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**Action Date:** 04/08/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.  
(Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Meeting Dates:** 03/16, 04/08

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

**Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires qualified nonprofit agencies for individuals with disabilities to pay individuals with disabilities at least minimum wage or prevailing wage if employed on public works project. Assigns enforcement to the Department of Administrative Services. Defines relevant terms. Becomes operative January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Impact on jobs at QRFs
- Impact on public contracts
- Value of QRF employees

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies effect upon existing and future public contracts. Defines relevant terms. Deletes requirement of Oregon Department of Administrative Services to set prices for products and services contracted with qualified nonprofit agencies and the proposed requirement to verify that qualified nonprofit agencies are paying workers at least the minimum wage or prevailing wage.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Qualified Rehabilitation Facility (QRF) program administered by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) promotes employment opportunities through public contracts for people with disabilities. State and local government agencies are required to purchase products and services from QRFs at prices determined by DAS as long as the goods and services meet the agencies' specifications and timing needs.

Senate Bill 555-A requires QRFs to pay employees with disabilities at least the minimum wage or, if employed on a public works project, the prevailing wage.