

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

---

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

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Meeting Dates:** 04/15

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

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

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies “public works” definition for the purpose of applying prevailing wage to include projects that use at least \$750,000 of funds of a public agency for construction, reconstruction, painting or major renovation on a publicly or privately owned road, highway, building, structure or improvement. Becomes operative on January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Current exemption from prevailing wage laws on projects taking place on public land
- History of public-private partnerships and prevailing wage
- Contract size threshold

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Removes requirement of private investment from definition of “public works” project.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under Oregon law, the hourly wage for the workers of any contractor performing a public works contract must be equal to or greater than the prevailing wage rate. The Bureau of Labor and Industries sets the prevailing wage rate based upon the specific trade and region where the workers perform the labor. Currently, prevailing wage requirements may not apply to work on publicly owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements.

Senate Bill 137-A changes the definition of “public works” to include both projects on privately owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements as well as projects on publicly owned roads, highways, buildings, structures or improvements, as long as \$750,000 or more of public funds are used.