

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/14/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Rescind Subsequent Referral To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 03/19, 04/09, 04/14

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Fagan, Holvey, McLain, Nearman, Rayfield, Stark

Prepared By: Wendy Simons, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires state contracting agency to use solicitation template and contract form developed by the Attorney General and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) as basis for all public procurements and contracts. Allows exception for unique procurements if agency receives approval from the Attorney General or DAS. Requires person conducting procurements for state agency to complete training or have professional experience. Requires DAS to establish training and experience requirements. Directs Secretary of State and State Treasurer to develop and use own forms and templates and establish training and experience standards for own staff conducting procurements or administering public contracts. Requires DAS to develop recommendations for promoting best practices, and to report to Legislative Assembly by November 30, 2015. Becomes operative January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Percentage of state employees with contract management duties in job description
- Number of different contract forms currently in use by state agencies
- Potential for standardization of forms to ease and speed up review process for contracts, make work easier for state workers moving between agencies
- Whether standard templates and forms will be sufficiently flexible for different types of contracts
- Time frame for establishing training program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) recently contracted with a consulting firm about making improvements in contracts and purchasing processes, and one of the recommendations was for Oregon state government to develop standardized forms and contracts for state agency procurements. The Oregon Department of Justice reviewed 3,200 state agency contracts, and found that agencies had used over 400 different forms. Other states are currently working on making similar improvements to contract forms, as well as providing increased training for state employees who administer contracts.