

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Workforce

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/20/15

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

**Meeting Dates:** 02/11, 04/20

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

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

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Grants the Labor Commissioner discretion over preparation of formal charges in some instances. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for discretion and the role of civil litigation
- Impact on fair housing
- Contracting with HUD
- Potential for federal financing of litigation
- Alternatives that maintain HUD eligibility

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has jurisdiction over matters such as wage and hour disputes, civil rights violations, and apprenticeship and training. Among their responsibilities, BOLI enforces laws granting individuals equal access to housing.

Currently, under Oregon law, if BOLI cannot resolve a housing discrimination dispute or if a party so requests, the Labor Commissioner must prepare formal charges and resolve the case in court. In such cases, BOLI pays the court fees. This process conforms to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development standards required for BOLI to handle federal housing discrimination claims.

Senate Bill 380-A grants the Labor Commissioner discretion over the preparation of formal charges.