

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/22/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/22

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Barton, Doherty, Evans, Fagan, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse

Nays: 2 - Barreto, Weidner

Exc: 2 - Esquivel, Heard

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes workplace protections for certain domestic workers, including overtime pay, periods of rest, paid vacation time and freedom from harassment. Directs Bureau of Labor and Industries to adopt rules to implement. Classifies violation as unlawful employment practice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of workers affected
- Food preparation
- Exemption from state minimum wage for domestic workers
- Federal rules and laws regulating some aspects of domestic worker employment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Domestic workers provide in-home services such as childcare, cooking, housekeeping and maintenance. These services often require the domestic worker to live in the home of the employer, typically as the only employee. As a result, the application and enforcement of workplace protections such as wage and hour laws, harassment laws and working condition regulations pose unique challenges.

Senate Bill 552-A establishes workplace protections for domestic workers and classifies violations as unlawful employment practices.