

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Business and Labor****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 02/10/16**Action:** Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference**Meeting Dates:** 02/01, 02/10**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Fagan, Heard, Kennemer

Nays: 2 - Holvey, Nosse

Exc: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Bureau of Labor and Industries to make electronically available to Oregon employers, at no charge, the employer publications, including handbooks and posters.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sale of publications provides partial funding for Technical Assistance Unit
- Nature of calls received by Unit
- Staffing level and work load of Unit
- Whether phone traffic will decline if publications could be downloaded
- Value of products and seminars produced by Unit
- Composite posters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Technical Assistance for Employers Program at the Bureau of Labor and Industries helps Oregon employers comply with employment laws by offering telephone and web-based information, pamphlets, fact sheets, handbooks, posters, and general and customized seminars and workshops. Revenue from the sale of publications and posters and through attendance fees for the seminars offered throughout the state helps fund the program. Program staff answer an estimated 25,000 telephone inquiries from employers annually and conduct more than 120 seminars per year. Their website offers free, downloadable posters for minimum wage regulations and family leave and fact sheets on dozens of topics. They sell three different composite posters ranging in price from \$12.50 to \$17.50 and eight handbooks ranging in price from \$15 to \$40.

House Bill 4032 directs the Bureau to make handbooks and posters available electronically at no charge to employers.