

SB 91 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

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Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes state policy and practical requirement that travel awards earned by state personnel on state business be managed by state agencies to reduce travel costs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether administrative burden is worth nominal benefit
- Desire for consistency with other state and federal entities, and private business practice
- Assignment of travel awards to individuals: not easily transferable
- Current agency ban on nonessential travel; use of technological alternatives to physical travel

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Removes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

State agencies in Oregon are required to manage travel awards that state employees use for government business. Travel awards are typically assigned to individuals and take many forms, like airline miles and hotel points. State employees typically pay for travel out-of-pocket and then seek reimbursement from their employing agency after-the-fact. Administratively, managing these travel benefits requires differentiating between them and tracking awards as they are earned, redeemed or expired; and then accounting for and reporting on any cost-savings achieved. Many state agencies do not use travel awards, and those that do, report nominal savings are realized, especially when compared to the cost of administration.

Senate Bill 91 relieves state agencies of the obligation to manage travel awards used by state employees.