

SB 376 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments for Director of Housing and Community Services Department and Director of State Department of Energy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Constitution permits the Legislative Assembly to require confirmation by the Senate of all gubernatorial appointments and re-appointments to state public office. Additionally, the Oregon Constitution prohibits an appointee from serving in the public office until they have received confirmation from the Senate. During the legislative session, the Senate President refers executive appointments to a standing or special committee to review the background and qualifications of appointees, ensuring that statutory requirements are met. After consideration of the appointment, the committee then submits its recommendations to the full Senate for confirmation votes.

The Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) is under the supervision and control of a Director who is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Director of OHCS is responsible for the performance of duties imposed on the department. Currently, the Director of OHCS is not subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The State Department of Energy (ODOE) is under the supervision of a Director who is appointed by the Governor. The Director of ODOE is, in addition to other statutory duties, responsible for the day-to-day functions of ODOE. Currently, the Director of ODOE is not subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Senate Bill 376 would require that gubernatorial appointments for the Director of OHCS and Director of ODOE be confirmed by a vote of the Senate.