HB 2549 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Lottery Commission to register fantasy contest operators to organize and offer fantasy contests. Requires registered fantasy contest operator to submit independent audit annually to the Commission. Provides conditions under which Commission can deny, suspend or revoke a registration. Provides rulemaking authority to Commission to establish registration process, fees, and qualifications for registration. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 (From Rep. Hack) Modifies definition of fantasy contest. Clarifies registration qualifications, process, fee and penalties. Provides that only those who apply for registration within 60 days of opening of application window will be able to organize or offer fantasy contests.

BACKGROUND:

Fantasy contests, as defined by House Bill 2549, are online fantasy or simulated games requiring participants to pay an entry fee. The winning outcome of a fantasy contest reflects the knowledge and skill of the participant and are determined by accumulated statistical performance results of individuals, including athletes in actual sporting events. However, the outcome cannot be based on the performance of any single team or athlete or combination of actual teams in an actual event.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, nine states have legalized online daily fantasy sports games (Colorado, Kansas, Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, New York and Massachusetts). Almost all game operators do not take customers from ten states (Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Alabama and Delaware). Oregon is one of four states (the others being Nevada, Montana and Delaware) where sports betting laws were grandfathered when Congress passed the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act in 1992.