

SB 841 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies that state agencies and departments shall purchase certain products and services from Commission for the Blind. Establishes Business Enterprise Program within commission to maintain and manage authorized vending facilities. Requires commission to facilitate certain dispute resolution meetings. Requires commission to submit annual report to Legislative Assembly. Becomes operative January 1, 2018. 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:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires state agencies and departments to purchase certain products and services from the Commission for the Blind as part of the state's efforts to increase economic opportunities for the visually impaired. The commission is authorized by statute to operate vending facilities in public buildings and properties, with the approval of the relevant agency head. The commission is also tasked with surveying public properties for determining suitability of vending facilities, as well as training and licensing qualified blind staff for the facilities.

Senate Bill 841 clarifies that state agencies and departments are required to purchase products or services from the Commission for the Blind when the product or service meets the agency's requirements and is being offered by the commission. It also creates a Business Enterprise Program within the commission to oversee the maintenance and management of the commission's vending facilities. The measure also requires the commission to facilitate a dispute resolution process for disputes between state agencies and a person who is blind. Finally, Senate Bill 841 requires the commission to submit an annual report to the interim business development committees of the Legislative Assembly at least 60 days prior to each regular session.