

HB 3253-5 Replaces original bill

From the office of Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer

The Commission for the Blind runs the Blind Enterprise Program and is intended to provide remunerative employment for blind Oregonians. The program comes from the Federal Randolph Shepard Act which was established in 1936. Oregon's program currently has fourteen licensed managers that operate vending routes, cafeterias and snack bars in state and federal facilities. Recently, the Commission and licensed managers have been involved in a legal battle over the ability to subcontract their vending facilities. The licensed managers have asked for clarity in the statute, growth of their program, and transparency from the Commission, that is what this bill is intended to do.

- Establishes priority for the Commission's BEP to operate vending machines, snack bars, micro-markets, cafés, convenience stores, espresso/coffee carts, food trucks to counties, towns, cities, villages, local governments and municipalities to put more blind people to work
- Maintains preference for operating cafeterias
- Makes priority and preference for cafeterias more visible in the Oregon Contracting Code
- Clarifies the law to allow subcontracting, with approval by the Commission
 - Commission will provide a list of pre-approved subcontractors
- Increases transparency:
 - The Commission's BEP will provide quarterly reports of assigned and unassigned vending to the BECC (Business Enterprise Consumer Committee) and to the public.
 - The Commission's BEP must provide quarterly set-aside financial reports to the Governor's Workforce Policy Advisor and to the BECC
 - The Commission's BEP must submit the annual performance report and any surveys done, to the Legislature, annually.
- With active participation by managers of the BECC, Commission will provide a statement describing **full-time** responsibilities.
- In the case of death/incapacitation of a licensed manager, a spouse/domestic partner may operate vending facility for up to six months or the end of a contract, for the purpose of winding down the operations.
- Requires the Commission with active participation of the BECC, to determine set-aside amount and discounts for employing blind, disabled and veteran employees and for selling healthy and/or locally produced food.

Workgroups: BECC, BEP, Commission for the Blind, Governor's office, DOJ, State Reps

Support:

Bi-partisan (Reps Keny-Guyer and Hack), Licensed Managers

Opposition:

None