

HB 3253 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands and refines prescribed responsibilities of Commission for the Blind (Commission) regarding vending facilities and other services provided at public buildings and properties. Establishes priority for operation of specified food service operations. Permits subcontracting with approval of Commission. Prohibits charging Commission, or persons who are blind, to operate vending facility in public building. Requires Commission to determine set-aside amount and discounts for employing blind, disabled and veteran employees, and for selling healthy and/or locally produced food. Creates fund for proceeds from operation of vending facilities and specifies how money may be used. Authorizes Commission to determine, by rule, percentage of net proceeds deposited in fund. Permits spouse or domestic partner, upon death or incapacitation of licensed manager, to operate vending facility for up to six months or until end of contract. Directs Commission to submit annual performance and building survey report to Legislative Assembly and committee related to human and health services. Establishes operative dates and effective date 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Randolph-Sheppard Act (Act) is a federal law that was enacted in 1936 in order to provide employment opportunities to people who are blind. The Act requires state rehabilitation agencies to recruit, train, license and place individuals who are blind in positions operating vending facilities on federal properties, including vending facilities in cafeterias and snack bars, and automatic vending machines.

Oregon law requires state agencies 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. According to statute, the Commission is authorized to operate vending facilities in public buildings and properties, with the approval of the relevant agency head. In addition, the Commission is also tasked with surveying public properties for determining suitability of vending facilities, in addition to training and licensing qualified blind staff for the facilities.

House Bill 3253-A expands and further defines the Commission's responsibilities regarding vending facilities and other services provided at public buildings and properties. The measure establishes priority for the Commission's Business Enterprise Program to operate vending machines, snack bars, micromarkets, cafés, convenience stores, espresso and coffee carts, and food trucks for counties, towns, cities, villages, local governments and municipalities.