

HB 2264 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases application fee for inclusion on State Conciliation Service's list of qualified arbitrators from \$50 to \$100.
Increases annual fee to remain on list of qualified arbitrators from \$100 to \$150.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of fee to be on list of qualified arbitrators
- Level of fees other organizations charge arbitrators to be included on referral list
- Distinction between fee charged by Board to be on list and fee charged by arbitrator to negotiating parties
- Clarification that arbitrators are not under contract by the State of Oregon

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Employment Relations Board (ERB) resolves disputes concerning labor relations for an estimated 3,000 different employers and 250,000 employees in public and private sector under its jurisdiction. The three-member Board administers the collective bargaining law that covers public employees of the State of Oregon and its cities, counties, school districts, and other local governments; hears and decides appeals from state employees concerning personnel actions; and administers the collective bargaining law that regulates private employers not covered by the National Labor Relations Act. More specifically, the Board directs agency programs, hears oral arguments; hears expedited unfair labor practice complaints; issues final board orders, declaratory rulings and orders for representation costs and attorney fees; adopts rules; responds to public inquiries; conducts studies on public employment labor-management relations and may recommend legislation.

The State Conciliation Service Division of the Employment Relations Board provides arbitration, mediation, training and facilitation services. State statute requires the Division to charge individuals a fee to be on the list of qualified arbitrators. The initial fee is \$50 and the annual fee thereafter is \$100. House Bill 2264 raises the fees to \$100 and \$150, respectively. The fees have not been changed since they were established in 2007. There are approximately 75 arbitrators on the list. The arbitrator has discretion to set the fee they charge the negotiating parties, and the parties evenly split the cost.