

SB 91 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Riley

Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Action Date: 03/08/17
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - DeBoer, Hass, Prozanski, Riley, Thatcher
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: C Ross, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes requirement that travel awards earned by state personnel on state business be managed by state agencies.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether administrative burden is worth nominal benefit
- Establishing consistency with other state and federal entities, and practice of private businesses
- Assignment of travel awards to individuals rather than entities
- Current state agency prohibition on nonessential travel and use of technology in lieu of physical travel

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND:

State agencies in Oregon are required to track and manage travel awards that state employees earn and use on government business. Travel awards are typically assigned to individuals and take many forms, including airline miles and hotel points. State employees typically pay for travel out-of-pocket and then seek reimbursement from their employing agency after-the-fact. Administratively, managing these travel benefits requires differentiating between the various types and tracking awards as they are earned, redeemed or expired; and then accounting for, and reporting on any cost-savings achieved. Many state agencies do not use travel awards, and those that do, report nominal actual savings, especially when compared to the cost of administration.

Senate Bill 91-A relieves state agencies of the obligation to manage travel awards used by state employees.