

HB 3253 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass. Refer to Rules.

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Gorsek, Keny-Guyer, Meek, Nearman, Noble, Olson, Piluso, Sanchez, Stark

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Vending contracts with the Commission for the Blind
- Federal Randolph-Sheppard Act
- Overview of the Commission for the Blind

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Randolph-Sheppard Act is a federal law enacted in 1936 to provide employment opportunities to people who are blind. State rehabilitation agencies are required under the Act to recruit, train, license and place individuals who are blind as operators of vending facilities on federal properties. This ensures that people who are blind are the operators of vending facilities in cafeterias, snack bars, and automatic vending machines. In 2014, 2,108 blind vendors operated 2,389 vending facilities on federal and other property.

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.

House Bill 3252 requires state agencies and departments to purchase certain products and services from Commission for the Blind (Commission). The Business Enterprise Program is established within the Commission to maintain and manage authorized vending facilities and requires facilitation of certain dispute resolution meetings.