

SB 94 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Business and Labor

Carrier: Rep. Doherty

Action Date: 05/03/17
Action: Do Pass.
Vote: 7-2-0-0
Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer
Nays: 2 - Bynum, Hack
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires construction sites for projects exceeding \$1.75 million to provide flush toilets, warm water wash basin and soap. Allows Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to adjust threshold amount based on changes in Consumer Price Index.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Threshold for additional sanitary facilities last changed in 1993
- Whether type of building project is taken into account
- Ability of larger projects to absorb cost of additional sanitary facilities
- Whether studies have linked sickness to lack of warm water washing stations
- Whether measure conflicts with goal of attracting women into construction trades

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), also known as Oregon OSHA, is the state's regulatory agency for workplace safety. It administers provisions of both federal and state law, provides assistance to employers on complying with safety and health regulations, and offers consultation services and public education opportunities.

Current law specifies that construction sites for projects with an estimated cost exceeding \$1 million must provide flushing toilet facilities and warm water washing basins, with soap, for employees on the job site. Typically, smaller construction sites will be provisioned with a portable chemical toilet. Due to the increase in construction costs since the statutory threshold was last changed in 1993, many more construction sites now trigger the flush toilet facility requirement, including some on residential projects.

Senate Bill 94 increases the threshold for the requirement to provide upgraded sanitary facilities at construction project sites from \$1 million to \$1.75 million and specifies that the DCBS Director may, by rule, adjust the threshold to match adjustments in the Consumer Price Index.