

SB 72 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 1/22, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies numerous aspects of administration of state agencies. Removes declaration that travel awards obtained while conducting state business are personal gain. Deletes requirement that state agencies manage travel awards earned by their employees traveling for the state. Allows DAS to rent unused office space to private persons at prescribed rates, unused non-office space to any person at market rate, and meeting spaces to any person engaged in specified activities. Expands state exemption from local parking codes to newly acquired state buildings. Standardizes definition of "state agency" for purposes of collecting debts owed to the state. Updates Consumer Price Index (CPI) references. Removes requirement for DAS to provide biennial telecommute report. Requires DAS to identify barriers to telecommuting for state employees and solutions to promote telecommuting.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Estimated annual cost of \$100,000 to track roughly \$5,000 in annual travel awards earned by employees traveling for the state
- Process for renting state-owned property to other state agency or private persons
- Current inability to purchase portion of a building and potential cost savings of purchase versus long-term lease
- Benefits of standardizing statutes related to tracking and collecting liquidated and delinquent debt and pending amendment to exempt judicial branch, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer from annual reporting requirements
- Pending amendment to remove CPI provisions as they are addressed in another measure
- Evolution of telecommuting as standard custom and practice and relative merits of tracking carbon saved by encouraging state employees to telecommute

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Clarifies DAS and owning agency must determine that space is not appropriate to the needs of the agency in order for DAS to rent to other agencies or private persons. Exempts judicial department, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer from requirement to report liquidated and delinquent debt to DAS. Removes provisions related to consumer price index.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) supports the operation of state government by providing a wide range of services to state agencies, including accounting, technology, human resources, facilities, fleet and parking, payroll, and procurement. The measure makes six changes to statutes administered by DAS:

- Current statute declares travel awards obtained while conducting state business a personal gain and requires DAS and state agencies to ensure travel awards are used to reduce the cost of state travel. The agency claims the process of monitoring travel awards costs far more than the reductions it produces. The measure removes this declaration and the associated monitoring and management requirement.
- Current statute allows DAS to rent space not needed or available to state agencies to other parties and space designated for public use to private concessions. The measure expands the agency's rental authority to include meeting spaces and allows non-office space to be rented at market rates.

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- Current statute exempts state buildings from local parking regulations in exchange for payments to transit districts. The measure expands the state exemption from local parking provisions to newly acquired state buildings.
- Current statutes governing the collection of debts to the state provide many definitions of "state agency." The measure standardizes the definition for several statutes related to the collection of delinquent debt. The agency claims this change is necessary to standardize the collection of delinquent debt.
- Current statute uses the Portland-Salem, OR-WA CPI to calculate specified funds and fees. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has discontinued that CPI. The measure updates CPI references to align with the current applicable CPI, the West Region Size A.
- Current statute requires DAS, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to provide a biennial report to the legislature on agency telecommunication rates, travel time and miles saved, efforts to promote and encourage telecommuting, and the effectiveness of those efforts. The measure deletes the reporting requirement and requires DAS to work with the Chief Information Officer and agencies to identify barriers to telecommuting by state employees and solutions to promote telecommuting.