

HB 2998 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Secretary of State to make business filing forms available in 10 languages most commonly spoken and written in Oregon. Removes requirement that business filings be in the English language.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 (From Rep. Alonso Leon, sponsor of bill) Replaces original measure. Requires Secretary of State to make business filing forms available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, and Korean. Requires person submitting form in language other than English to submit reasonably authenticated English translation of the information. Removes requirement that business filings be in English language. Provides process to change the five selected foreign languages. Appropriates unstated amount out of General Fund to Secretary of State to create forms in five languages and hire four bilingual staff to assist with business registry functions. Requires forms to be available in specified foreign languages by July 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Businesses file documents with the Secretary of State when starting a business and annually thereafter. They must also file to report certain changes, such as changes in location, registered agent, or ownership. Current law allows foreign business filings to be in a language other than English if the filing is accompanied by a reasonably associated English translation. Business filings are public records.

House Bill 2998 removes the requirement that business filings with the Secretary of State be in English and requires the Secretary of State to make the forms available in the 10 most common languages written and spoken in Oregon.