

HB 2231 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides right to interpreters paid by the State of Oregon to collectively bargain with State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 (At request of Oregon Judicial Department) Removes court interpreters from provisions of bill.

BACKGROUND:

Interpreters are hired by public entities in the health care and justice systems. Court interpreters (referred to as "qualified interpreters" in statute) provide services to people with disabilities and to non-English speaking people. Health care interpreters provide communication services to people with limited English proficiency. The interpreters are typically not employees of the State.

House Bill 2231 allows health care and court interpreters who are paid by the State of Oregon the right to collectively bargain as though they are public employees governed by the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). The measure specifies that these interpreters are not for any other purpose to be considered employees of the State or any other public body. The appropriate bargaining unit for health care interpreters, should they decide to organize, is a bargaining unit of all health care interpreters in the state. The same holds for court interpreters.