

HB 2398 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases maximum compensation paid to employees conducting or supervising bingo, lotto, and raffle games or Monte Carlo events for charitable, fraternal, or religious organizations. Allows person to manage or operate bingo, lotto, raffle, or Monte Carlo event, concession or related operation for more than one licensee concurrently without authorization from Department of Justice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law allows charitable organizations (those exempt from payment of federal taxes) to conduct bingo, lotto, and raffle games and Monte Carlo events. The Department of Justice has authority to license charitable, fraternal, and religious organizations that offer these games and events and those associated with the games, such as manufacturers and suppliers of related equipment and escrow agents who hold prizes. The Department may also adopt rules to establish maximum limits on income and expenses of the games and events and to establish maximum compensation paid to employees of the charitable, fraternal, and religious organizations to operate or supervise the games. Oregon law caps the compensation for operators at 200 percent of the federal minimum wage and for supervisors at 300 percent of the federal minimum wage. The federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25 per hour.

House Bill 2398 A ties the statutory cap on compensation paid to operators and supervisors of charitable gaming events to the applicable Oregon minimum wage instead of the federal minimum wage. The Oregon minimum wage for the Portland urban growth boundary is currently \$10.75 per hour.