

HB 2151 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Action Date: 03/10/21

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Bynum, Clem, Evans, Fahey, Grayber, Holvey, Post, Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on the State as Model Employer Program for Employment of People with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Establishes appointing authority and criteria for membership. Requires task force to submit report to the legislature and to make recommendations to the Department of Human Services (DHS) by September 15, 2022. Directs DHS to staff task force. Provides that members serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement. Directs DHS, in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Services, to establish the State as Model Employer Program for hiring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Takes effect 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities
- Impact of *Lane v Brown* (2012) and 2015 settlement agreement
- Positive impact work can have for individuals with disabilities
- Whether a legislative task force is necessary to accomplish the agency's goals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Department of Human Services, government hiring managers are not aware of the resources available to them when considering employing a person who has intellectual or developmental disabilities. The Department reports that 0.3 percent of people with an intellectual or developmental disability work for the State of Oregon, compared to 2.5 percent of all Oregonians who work for the State. For local governments, the figures are 6.9 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

House Bill 2151 establishes a task force to coordinate and provide leadership to increase the inclusion of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the State of Oregon workforce through the State as Model Employer Program. The measure directs the Department to establish the State as Model Employer Program to encourage, educate, and assist state agencies in hiring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.