

SB 515 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Action Date: 03/23/21

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Anderson, Gelser, Lieber, Taylor

Exc: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires employees holding a permit to serve alcohol to report reasonable belief of suspected trafficking or unlawful employment of minors at their place of employment to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and to law enforcement. Provides immunity from liability for good faith reporting. Operative January 1, 2022. Authorizes OLCC to sanction regulated employees for failure to report. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment *sine die*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extent of human trafficking problem; complexity of circumstances; using all available tools
- Educating individuals employed in environments where minors may be present and unwilling or unable to ask for help

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) regulates alcohol and marijuana industries. Regulated businesses in the alcohol industry include bars and restaurants. “Premises” and “licensed premises” are defined to include office space, kitchen areas, any area where customers are allowed, and any areas specifically approved for serving or consuming alcohol. Anyone employed by a business regulated by the OLCC who prepares or serves alcohol on the premises must be age 18 or older and is required to obtain a service permit from the OLCC.

Trafficking victims are often subject to both physical and psychological coercion, rendering them unable or unwilling to seek help or attempt escape from forced labor or sex trades.

Senate Bill 515 requires employees who hold a service permit and work for certain businesses in the alcohol industry to report to the OLCC and to law enforcement if they reasonably suspect trafficking or unlawful employment of minors at their place of employment.