

SB 1551 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the requirement that licensee members of the Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots be a resident of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Established in 1846, the Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots is responsible for promoting public safety in the state's ports by assuring that only well-qualified persons are licensed to pilot vessels that enter and leave the ports. The Board is established within the Public Utilities Commission of Oregon. Under current law, the Board is required to establish a licensing system for persons to assist the master of a vessel while the vessel is on, approaching, or departing specified bar and river pilotage grounds in the state. The Board must also investigate incidents and regulate the amount that pilots may charge for their services.

The Governor appoints all nine members of the board for a term of four years. Three members are designated public members, three must be licensees, and three must have operated or represented oceangoing vessels for at least three years immediately preceding their appointment and during their term. The law places requirements and limitations on each type of member, including that licensee appointees must be residents of the state.

Senate Bill 1551 removes the requirement that licensee members of the Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots be a resident of Oregon.