

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 29: Department of Consumer and Business Services Workers' Compensation Premium Assessment

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge the receipt of a report on workers' compensation premium assessment rates.

State law requires DCBS to report on workers' compensation premium assessment rates the Department establishes through administrative rule. The premium assessment funds the Workers' Compensation Division, including the Ombudsman for Injured Workers, the Small Business Ombudsman, a portion of the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health program, and the Workers' Compensation Board. The assessment is calculated as a percentage of the total premiums collected by workers' compensation insurers. The 2023 assessment rate of 9.8% will remain unchanged for 2024.

DCBS also reports that the Workers' Benefit Fund assessment, which funds programs that support injured workers and their families, will decline from 2.2 cents per hour worked in 2023 to 2.0 cents per hour worked in 2024. This decrease reflects the availability of fund balances and the attrition of program beneficiaries.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval.