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82nd LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL and WORLD
AFFAIRS
State Capitol
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Salem, OR 97301
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Thursday, January 11, 2024

TO: Senate Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal & World Affairs
FROM: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
RE: Proposed LC drafts for committee bill consideration

Here is a summary of the three LC drafts that have been requested for consideration as possible committee bills by the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs when it meets on January 11th:

LC 166: COFA Safety Net Benefits

Legislation was adopted in 2023 (Senate Concurrent Resolution 16) that declared it to be legislative intent to codify the right of Confederation of Fee Association (COFA) islanders to receive safety net benefits in Oregon that are provided to other Oregon residents, and also specified that this would be done during the 2024 session; LC 166 prohibits the Department of Human Services from denying public assistance, including SNAP benefits, to COFA citizens based on their immigration status.

LC 170: Urban Flood Control and Water Quality District

The state's only urban flood control and water quality district is codified in ORS 550, following passage of Senate Bill 431 (2019); the district's purpose is to protect vital industrial land, transportation hubs, and drinking water sources through maintenance of the Columbia River levee system; LC 170 revises the District's statutes related to authority to levy and collect taxes, grant authority to the District Board to adopt fees by ordinance to cover fixed costs, and the transition to the initial District Board from the previous drainage district, including transfer of duties, assets, and liabilities of the dissolved drainage district.

LC 174: Ireland Trade Commission

Two states – New Jersey and West Virginia – have created Ireland Trade Commissions that seek to advance bilateral trade and investment the state and Ireland. LC 174 creates a similar board in Oregon, comprised of seven to nine members, to advance bilateral trade, initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest, promote business and academic exchanges, encourage mutual economic support and infrastructure investment, and generally address other issues identified by the Commission.