

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 67: Department of Consumer and Business Services Financial Regulation Positions

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

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$1.2 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation and authorizing the establishment of eight positions for the Department of Consumer and Business Services in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session to address staffing needs in the Division of Financial Regulation.

The additional positions will support increases in the Department’s workload related to several financial regulatory functions. Three positions are related to eliminating a backlog of insurance licensing and retaliatory tax work attributed to the growth and complexity of insurers and other regulated entities in Oregon. Two positions will support the expansion of pharmacy benefit manager oversight responsibilities authorized in the 2023 session, including the mitigation of span of control issues. An additional two positions will help the agency meet quality and timeliness standards related to regulating the financial solvency of Oregon-domiciled insurers and for overseeing market conduct compliance requirements. The remaining position is attributed to the recent merger of Umpqua and Columbia banks, which created one of the largest banks in the Northwest and requires additional oversight.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends approval.