

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 49: Department of Consumer and Business Services Workers' Compensation Board Compensation Changes

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

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee heard a request from the Department of Consumer and Business Services on Workers' Compensation Board compensation changes.

The compensation changes include reclassifying the board chair as an agency administrator, because the board is established statutorily as an independent agency rather than a division within the Department of Consumer and Business Services and revising the salary structure for the Presiding Administrative Law Judge and 19 Administrative Law Judges' due to higher minimum qualification requirements compared to other Administrative Law Judges in Oregon. The total cost of these changes is \$851,988 Other Funds. The Board is funded by the Premium Assessment Operating Account, which has a sufficient ending fund balance to support the compensation changes and will not require a rate increase.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means include an increase of \$851,988 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Consumer and Business Services in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session for Workers' Compensation Board compensation changes.