

HB 3887 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines a "work session" as a meeting held to present information to a governing body to prepare it for a regular or special meeting or to allow it to engage in preliminary discussions or deliberations. It extends the public meeting requirements to work session meetings and adds a requirement for all meetings to include a public comment period of reasonable duration, except for work session and executive session meetings. Lastly, the measure prohibits a governing body from voting on any matter unless the required public notice includes a public comment period.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under Oregon's public meetings law, meetings of governing bodies are:

- open to the public;
- prohibited from being held at places where discrimination is "practiced;"
- held within the jurisdiction of the governing body;
- held at accessible meeting locations and provide interpreters for deaf or hard of hearing individuals, if requested;
- noticed for the time and place and with a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; and,
- not held without at least 24 hours' notice to the members of the governing body, the news media that have requested notice, and the general public.

In addition, governing bodies must provide a sound, video, or digital recording or written minutes for all meetings. Executive sessions are permitted on certain matters, although no final action or decision can be made in an executive session. The law establishes requirements for meetings held by telephone or other electronic communication, and requires all meetings to provide, where reasonably possible, the opportunity for telephone or virtual attendance and for oral or written testimony by electronic or virtual means if in-person oral or written testimony is allowed.