

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Garrett, Nolan, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Barker, Krieger
Nays:	Hicks, Whisnant
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines “liquor inspector” as full-time employee of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) who is authorized to act as an agent of the commission in conducting inspections or investigations, making arrest and seizures, aiding prosecutions for offenses, and issuing citations for violations of Oregon’s liquor control laws including commission rules. Clarifies that “liquor inspectors” have the same powers as “peace officers” in order to enforce Oregon’s liquor control laws. Requires “liquor inspectors” to be certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Requires DPSST to issue certificates to those the Commission employs who qualify as liquor enforcement inspectors. Allows OLCC to employ a person as a liquor enforcement inspector for not more than 18 months if the person has not been DPSST trained. Requires inspectors to be U.S. citizens. Allows for extensions of the 18 month time period.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original law written just after the end of Prohibition
- Currently OLCC inspectors have police powers to enforcement Oregon liquor laws through a general grant of authority
- Bill gives them specific powers
- Authority limited to enforcement of liquor laws

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 471.775(2) states that “inspectors and investigators” employed by the OLCC shall have the authority given by statute to peace officers of this state, including authority to serve and execute warrants of arrest and warrants of search and seizure. It is generally understood that these powers are limited to the enforcement of Oregon’s liquor control laws. However, the powers of “peace officers” are broader. Senate Bill 1528A is intended to better define the law enforcement powers of a “liquor enforcement inspector.”