

SB 79 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

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Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies authority allowing Department of Revenue to render assistance in the collection of any delinquent account owing to a qualified entity if the qualified entity assigns the account to the Department of Revenue for collection.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Revenue (DOR) offset program is a program where potential state tax refunds are diverted to pay outstanding debt
- Potential to use offset program to collect outstanding debt for local governments
- Measure expands permissive authority of DOR to collect local government debt
- Potential language change that would narrow the introduced version of measure
- Method local governments use today to collect delinquent debt.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Other Agency Accounts (OAA) division of the Department of Revenue (DOR) collects delinquent debt for more than 280 state agencies, boards, and commissions including circuit courts, universities, and a wide variety of regulatory agencies. In addition to working to collect delinquent debt, OAA also manages and delivers appropriate accounts to private collection firms.

Measure clarifies existing authority of DOR to collect delinquent debt of public universities and the Oregon Health and Science University. Measure expands authority of DOR to collect debt originating from local and special government bodies such as port districts.