

SB 454 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers administration of Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, unclaimed estates, and escheated property and funds from Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) to Oregon State Treasurer. Requires DSL to transfer related records, property, and employees to Treasurer and Governor to resolve any disputes relating to transfer. Clarifies that transfer does not affect any pending action, proceeding, or prosecution or relieve any person of a liability, duty, or obligation. Specifies that Treasurer is continuation of DSL for purpose of transferring contracts, leases, and business transactions. Requires that administrative rules adopted by DSL continue until superseded or repealed by Treasurer. Eliminates additional requirements for recovering proceeds of unclaimed United States savings bonds. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die with operative dates for specific sections ranging from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2022.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Clarifies specified deposits are made in the Unclaimed Property Revolving Fund. Requires Treasurer to coordinate specified activities with specified agencies. Removes Secretary of State from agencies that include information on unclaimed property reporting requirement in regular communications and resources. Adds Oregon Investment Council (OIC) to Treasurer as parties requires to invest funds administered by DSL. Adds Common School Fund to list of investment funds managed by OIC and Treasurer. Adds employees DSL and Treasurer to list of persons with whom Department of Revenue may disclose specified information for purposes of identifying, locating, and publishing list of taxpayers entitled to unclaimed refunds.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) has administered the state's Unclaimed Property Law since 1957. DSL currently holds millions of dollars in unclaimed assets including savings bonds, stock dividends, and uncashed checks. Roughly \$50 million is remitted to DSL each year, roughly half of which is returned to the rightful owners. Unclaimed funds are held in Oregon's Common School Fund until claimed, and interest from those funds are sent to Oregon's schools twice a year.

Senate Bill 454 transfers administration of Oregon's unclaimed property law from DSL to the Oregon State Treasurer. The Treasurer is a constitutional officer responsible for the state's investing, banking, and debt programs.