

SB 515 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires certain employees regulated by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) to report reasonable belief of suspected trafficking or unlawful employment of minors at their place of employment, to the OLCC and to law enforcement. Provides immunity from liability for good faith reporting. Makes preceding provisions operative January 1, 2022. Authorizes OLCC to sanction regulated employees for failure to report. Takes effect the 91st day after *sine die* adjournment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extent of human trafficking problem; complexity of circumstances; using all available tools
- Educating individuals employed in environments where minors may be present and unwilling or unable to ask for help

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) regulates alcohol and marijuana industries. Regulated businesses in the alcohol industry include bars and restaurants. “Premises” and “licensed premises” are defined to include office space, kitchen areas, any area where customers are allowed, and any areas specifically approved for serving or consuming alcohol. Anyone employed by a business regulated by the OLCC who prepares or serves alcohol on the premises must be 18 or older and is required to obtain a service permit from OLCC.

Trafficking victims are often subject to both physical and psychological coercion, rendering them unable or unwilling to seek help or attempt escape from forced labor or sex trades.

Senate Bill 515 requires permitted employees of certain businesses in the alcohol industry to report to the OLCC and to law enforcement if they reasonably suspect trafficking or unlawful employment of minors at their place of employment.