SB 515 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On General Government

Prepared By: Caine Francis, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires employees of a full or limited on-premises sales license to report to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and law enforcement any reasonable belief that sex trafficking or employment of minors is occurring at the licensed premises. Provides immunity from liability for good faith reporting, and becomes operative January 1, 2022. Authorizes OLCC to adopt rules and to revoke or suspend the service permit of employees for failure to report. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Senate vote: Ayes, 27; Nays, 1--Heard; Excused, 2--Gelser, Thomsen

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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 age 18 or older and is required to obtain a service permit from the 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 employees who hold a service permit and work for 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.