

SB 44 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the office of the business ombudsman in the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Requires business ombudsman assist Oregon businesses with regulatory compliance and, upon request, mediate interactions with state agencies. Allows business ombudsman to order state agency to cease any action against a business, if the business will undergo a significant hardship as result of the way a state agency is administering rule, policy, or procedure. Defines significant hardship. Directs business ombudsman to report to the legislature by September 15 of each odd-numbered year. Specifies contents of report. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is tasked with providing a variety of services to state agencies. For example, DAS reviews agencies' compliance with statewide policies, assists state agencies in workforce development and training, and provides personnel services. DAS also assists state agencies with procurement activities.

The Office of Small Business Assistance (Office) is located within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office assists small businesses in resolving issues with state agencies, boards, commissions and councils, or local government. "Small business" is defined in law and includes Oregon businesses with 100 or fewer employees.

House Bill 44 establishes the office of the business ombudsman in DAS to assist Oregon businesses with regulatory compliance and mediate interactions with state agencies.