

SB 853 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits state payment of travel costs to and from Oregon for state employee who telecommutes from principal work site outside Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of employees measure would apply to
- Examples of travel that is reimbursed
- Collective bargaining agreements
- Travel reimbursement of employees from neighboring states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Prohibits state payment of travel costs to and from Oregon for state employee who telecommutes from principal work site located more than sixty miles from border of Oregon unless authorized under terms of collective bargaining agreement. Provides exemption when essential requirements of telecommuting employee's position necessitate employee telecommuting from principal work site outside of Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law encourages state agencies to allow employees to telecommute when telecommuting provides an opportunity for improved employee performance, reduced commuting miles, or agency savings. This law applies to state agencies in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Each state agency is required to adopt written policies defining telecommuting criteria. Telecommuting is defined as working from an "employee's home or from an office near the employee's home, rather than from the principal place of employment."

Senate Bill 853 prohibits the state from paying travel costs to and from Oregon for a state employee who telecommutes from a principal worksite outside of Oregon.