

SB 1568 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Bonham

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Action Date: 02/14/24
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Bonham, Jama, Patterson, Taylor
Exc: 1 - Hansell
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Whitney Perez, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure specifies that when determining the prevailing rate of wage for electrical workers, the applicable locality is the geographical area within which each local union is the exclusive representative for its membership, and the applicable collective bargaining agreement is the collective bargaining agreement to which the local union is a party. The measure takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Whether the measure would impact public works project costs
- The measure's impact on current wages
- Legislative history establishing prevailing wage in each region of the state

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon passed its prevailing wage rate (PWR) law in 1959. This law was referred to as the "Little Davis-Bacon Act," in reference to the federal "Davis-Bacon" prevailing wage laws. Oregon laws require contractors and subcontractors to pay workers the prevailing rate of wage for an hour of work in the same trade or occupation in the locality where the labor is performed for public works projects. Oregon law defines what is and is not included in "public works." "Locality" is also defined. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is required to determine once each year the prevailing rate of wage for workers in each trade or occupation in each defined locality.

Senate Bill 1568 provides that when determining the prevailing rate of wage for electrical workers, a locality is the geographical area within which each local union is the exclusive representative for its membership, and the collective bargaining agreement is the collective bargaining agreement to which the local union is a party.