

SB 166 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Tisha Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes the term for persons permitted to practice law in Oregon from "member" to "licensee," and changes related program terms from membership to licensure. It also permits the Oregon State Bar to adopt a quorum requirement by rule.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Bar (the Bar or OSB) was established by statute as a public corporation and an instrumentality of the Oregon Judicial Department. Bar members vote to elect a 19-member Board of Governors and a 200-member House of Delegates. ORS 9.080 charges the Board with regulating the legal profession in Oregon and improving the quality of legal services, supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice, and advancing a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system. The Oregon Supreme Court has inherent authority to adopt rules and take other actions relating to the regulation of the practice of law, including approval authority for any procedures regarding Bar member admission and licensure, and the power to disbar or discipline Bar members.

ORS 9.160 and 9.191 require persons who practice law in Oregon to be an active member of the Oregon State Bar and pay dues. This type of bar is referred to as integrated or compulsory. Being a member could have different implications than being a licensee, in relation to a person's freedom of association rights.