

SB 946 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits the Workers' Benefit Fund to be used for expenses of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in carrying out the Commissioner's duties, as set forth in law.

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 Workers' Benefit Fund (WBF) is supported by assessments based on each hour of work performed by a worker subject to Oregon workers' compensation law or workers an employer chooses to cover with workers' compensation insurance. Presently, the WBF assessment is 2 cents per hour worked. It is an employer's responsibility to collect and pay the full WBF assessment. The programs and services supported by the WBF are specified in law. The WBF supports cost-of-living increases to the monthly payments made to permanently and totally disabled workers and to the spouses and children of workers who died because of an occupational injury or disease, a program for employment and re-employment of workers with disabilities, and monetary incentives for Oregon employers to hire or rehire injured workers. Specified funds within the WBF may also be used for expenses of the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences of the Oregon Health Sciences University. The WBF may also be used for expenses of the Bureau of Labor and Industries for activities related to investigation of discrimination to an injured worker.

The duties of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries are set forth in law and include enforcement of: all laws regulating the employment of adults and minors; all laws established for the protection of the health, lives, and limbs of persons employed in workshops, factories, mills, and other places; all laws enacted for the protection of employees; laws which declare it to be a misdemeanor on the part of employers to require as a condition of employment the surrender of any rights of citizenship; and laws regulating and prescribing the qualifications of persons in apprenticeable trades and crafts, and similar laws.

Senate Bill 946 permits the Workers' Benefit Fund to be used for expenses of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in carrying out the Commissioner's duties, as set forth in law.