

SB 601 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the threshold for the estimated cost at which a construction project site must provide sanitary facilities by changing the amount that triggers the requirement from \$1 million to \$2 million. Modifies provisions related to hand washing stations for construction sites that meet or exceed the threshold. Requires the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adjust the threshold amount based on changes to the Consumer Price Index.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), also known as Oregon OSHA, is the state's regulatory agency for workplace safety. It administers provisions of both federal and state law, provides assistance to employers on complying with safety and health regulations, and offers consultation services and public education opportunities.

Current law specifies that construction sites for projects with an estimated cost exceeding \$1 million must provide flushing toilet facilities and warm water washing basins, with soap, for employees on the job site. Typically, smaller construction sites will be provisioned with portable chemical toilets. Because of the increase in construction costs since the statutory threshold was last changed in 1993, many more construction sites now trigger the flush toilet facility requirement, including some in residential areas.

Senate Bill 94 increases the threshold for upgraded sanitary facilities for construction project sites from \$1 million to \$2 million and specifies that the DCBS Director must, by rule, adjust the threshold to match adjustments in the Consumer Price Index.