

**JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SB 654**

**June 10, 1999 Hearing Room 343**

**2:30 p.m. Tape 1**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gene Derfler, Chair**

**Rep. Roger Beyer**

**Sen. Neil Bryant**

**Rep. Dan Gardner**

**Rep. Tim Knopp**

**Sen. Thomas Wilde**

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT: Brian Smith, Administrator**

**Nancy Masee, Administrative Support**

**MEASURE HEARD: SB 654B Work Session**

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
<b>TAPE 1, A</b>		
004	Chair Derfler	Opens meeting at 2:40 PM. Opens work session on SB 654B.
<b><u>SB 654B WORK SESSION</u></b>		
	Staff	Submits ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).

008	Chair Derfler	Gives background on SB 654B. Explains why the Senate did not concur with the House on this bill. Says the problem was that the department was being run by a group of people. The conclusion was that one person should be in charge of the agency and use the board as a sounding board. They needed a decision maker. Describes the House amendments to SB 654B. The judges need to act independently. Says the Governor supports the original bill. This amendment allows the Board Chair to control the Administrative Law Judges. Asks for any testimony on this issue.
059	Jennifer Weber	Representing the Oregon Workers' Compensation Attorneys and the Workers' Compensation Section of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. Says currently the Workers' Compensation Board disciplines Administrative Law Judges and the association wishes that procedure to remain in force. Explains the concern is that this amendment will adversely affect the judgment of administrative law judges and that there will not be a fair hearing for claimants or defendants. Opposes the amendments.
03	Rep. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves to adopt the 8 amendments dated 6/10/99.</b>
104		<b>VOTE: 6-0</b>
	Chair Derfler	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
105	Rep. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves SB 654 to the floor with the recommendation that the Senate concur in the House amendments dated 5/19/99 and that the bill be further amended with the 8 amendments dated 6/10/99 and that the bill be repassed.</b>
106		<b>VOTE: 6-0</b>
	Chair Derfler	<b>Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>  <b>SEN. DERFLER AND REP. BEYER will lead discussion on the floor.</b>
110	Chair Derfler	Suggests to Weber that if this procedure does not work out to the association's approval, the issue will be taken up again. Closes work session on SB 654.
140	Chair Derfler	Adjourns meeting at 2:50 PM.

Nancy Masee, Brian Smith,

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A ñ SB 654, -B8 amendments, Staff, 1 p**