

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BUSINESS

January 19, 1993 Hearing Room F 8:30 a.m. Tapes 3 - 4

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Repine, Chair Rep. Hedy Rijken, Vice-Chair
Rep. Lisa Naito Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen Rep. Cynthia Wooten

STAFF PRESENT: Janet McComb, Committee Administrator Katy
Yetter, Committee Clerk

ISSUES DISCUSSED: Overview of the Department of Insurance
and Finance

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize
statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in
quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents
of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate
Graphic ---]

TAPE 3, SIDE A

003 CHAIR REPINE: Calls the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and
introduces Gary Weeks.

013 GARY WEEKS, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCE:
Presents a general overview of the Department of Insurance and Finance.
>Biennial Report for 1989-91 (EXHIBIT A). >Legislative Concept Tracking
(EXHIBIT B). >Defines responsibilities of Department in terms of what is
given to employees, etc. >Describes relationship with Board and
information on management system. >Those who create rates in insurance
and those involved in workers' compensation should come together to give
leverage to workers' compensation problems. >No criminal action is taken
against employers who do not invest in insurance. >Plays a role in the
insurance pool, providing insurance for the uninsurable (respiratory
disease, heart conditions, etc.)

CHAIR REPINE: How is this funded?

WEEKS: We assess insurance companies each year. >Overview of corporate
securities, state charter banks, small community banks, etc.

TAPE 4, SIDE A (Starting at 050)

060 CHAIR REPINE: Has the success changed in the re-employment
program?

WEEKS: We have improved. We have approximately 4,000 individuals,
which has doubled from last session. >Occupational Safety and Health
Division (OSHA) administers the Oregon Safe Employment Act. Since OSHA
began in 1971, we have elected to run our own program.

241 VanLEEUEWEN: Would like a matrix of OSHA and the federal
overlaps.

WEEKS: Will provide this information.

352 WOOTEN: Expresses concern with the inspector style within OSHA and the potential abuse of power.

WEEKS: Concerned about investigator behavior. Wants non-threatening and non-condescending individuals. This is a hard job.

TAPE 3, SIDE B (Starting at 035)

001 WEEKS: Continues with overview.

075 WOOTEN: Do we, as part of the Legislative Assembly, have an impact on how the standards are set, particularly those which exceed federal standards and industrial classifications? What is the process?

WEEKS: This is a public hearing process held by the department. We propose the rules by division, and the division administrator holds a public hearing. We then modify the rules, based on public testimony and adopt those rules, according to the Secretary of State.

123 NAITO: When federal standards are adopted, are any of these standards considered "nit-picking?"

128 WEEKS: There are probably some parts of the federal code thought to be "nit-picking." The issue is how not to adopt these codes and still fulfill the commitment to the federal government.

155 CHAIR REPINE: The majority of the OSHA issues will be heard in the Labor Subcommittee.

208 WEEKS: Continues, outlining proposed legislation. TAPE 4, SIDE B

001 WOOTEN: Thanks Mr. Weeks and will make an appointment for further questions.

026 CHAIR REPINE: Commends Mr. Weeks. >Adjourns the meeting.

Transcribed by:

Reviewed by:

Debbie Schieno
Administrator

Janet McComb Clerk

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - 1989-1991 Biennial Report - Department of Insurance and Finance
- 43 pages B - Legislative Concept Tracking - Dept. of Insurance and Finance - 3 pages