



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Bill Passes Legislature to Create BOLI Employer Assistance Division, Protecting Both Employers and Employees

HB 2248 improves processes to prevent labor violations before they occur

SALEM, OR – Today, House Bill 2248 passed the Oregon Senate with strong bipartisan support. The measure creates the Employer Assistance Division within the Bureau of Labor and Industries and is a part of an ongoing effort to improve customer service across state agencies.

“Oregon is one of the best states in the country for labor protections,” said **Senator Kathleen Taylor (D - Portland and Milwaukie)**, chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business. “By offering guidance and support to employers, we will help ensure compliance and ultimately strengthen Oregon’s workforce.”

The Employer Assistance Division will provide education, training, and guidance on complying with laws that BOLI enforces. A backlog of labor violations has built up at BOLI that are waiting to be processed, some of which have been lingering for over a year. HB 2248 looks upstream to prevent labor violations before they ever occur. The newly formalized Employer Assistance Division is designed to increase usage of critical services that protect both employers and workers.

“Employers want to do the right thing. Our labor regulations are there for the right reasons, though we recognize it can be a lot for businesses to keep up with, especially for small business owners,” says **Representative Dacia Grayber (D - SW Portland)**, who serves as chair of the House Committee on Labor and Workplace Standards. “We should strive to take a ‘help-first’ rather than a ‘punish-first’ approach.”

Labor Commissioner Christina Stephenson asked Chair Grayber to introduce this bill because she agrees with this help-first approach.

“When BOLI can help employers navigate Oregon’s employment laws and avoid violations, everyone benefits – employers and workers alike,” said **Commissioner Stephenson**.

House Bill 2248 now heads to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

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