

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported) April 23, 1997

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

0-21886

52-0812977

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission File
Number)

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

4724 SW Macadam Avenue, Portland, Oregon

97201

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (503) 220-0988

Item 5. Other Events.

On April 23, 1997, Barrett Business Services, Inc. reported that its farm and forest labor contractor license was reinstated by the State of Oregon. An administrative law judge has withdrawn the final order on default of April 4, 1997 entered by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. The judge's ruling will allow Barrett to present its case at a hearing to evaluate the merits of the State's administrative complaint.

Barrett had reported on April 8, 1997 that its farm and forest labor contractor license had been revoked by the State of Oregon through a default judgment and an assessment of \$488,000 in civil penalties. The State alleged certain deficiencies related to written documentation evidencing that the terms and conditions of employment and workers' rights and remedies had been properly communicated to employees.

Accompanying this report as Exhibit 99 is a copy of the news release, dated April 23, 1997 in which Barrett announced the reinstatement of its farm and forest labor contractor license through the withdrawal of the final order on default of April 4, 1997 entered by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

2

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit 99 News Release of Barrett Business Services,
Inc. dated April 23, 1997

3

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

DATED: April 24, 1997

Barrett Business Services, Inc.

By: /s/ Michael D. Mulholland
Michael D. Mulholland
Vice President - Finance

4

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

99 News Release of Barrett Business
Services, Inc. dated April 23, 1997

5

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: William W. Sherertz
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone: (503) 220-0988

BARRETT BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.
ANNOUNCES REINSTATEMENT OF ITS
FARM AND FOREST LABOR CONTRACTOR LICENSE

PORTLAND, OREGON, April 23, 1997 - Barrett Business Services, Inc. (Nasdaq trading symbol: "BBSI") announced today that its farm and forest labor contractor license was reinstated by the State of Oregon. An administrative law judge has withdrawn the final order on default of April 4, 1997 entered by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. The judge's ruling will allow Barrett to present its case at a hearing to evaluate the merits of the State's administrative complaint.

Barrett had reported on April 8, 1997 that its farm and forest labor contractor license had been revoked by the State of Oregon through a default judgment and an assessment of \$488,000 in civil penalties. The State alleged certain deficiencies related to written documentation evidencing that the terms and conditions of employment and workers' rights and remedies had been properly communicated to employees.

Chief Executive Officer William W. Sherertz stated, "This reinstates our farm and forest labor contractor license and provides the Company the opportunity to comprehensively respond to the State's allegations. The administrative law judge is to be commended on his ruling to allow the case to be evaluated on its merits."

Barrett Business Services, Inc. is a human resource management company with offices in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Michigan, Maryland and Delaware. Barrett reported revenues of \$215.8 million and net income of \$5.0 million for 1996.

####