HB 3160 -1   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Prepared By:	Cassandra Soucy, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/28, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows an individual who has limited vision to carry and use a white cane on highways and other public places. Includes individual who has limited vision within established offenses for unlawful use of white cane and for driver of motor vehicle failing to stop when individual who has limited vision is crossing a roadway. Defines limited vision as a visual acuity not exceeding 20/70 and is no worse than 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses. Redefines blind to include a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Threshold for legally blind
- Safety concerns for individuals with visual impairments
- Compliance with Oregon statute for definition of deaf-blind

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Redefines blind and deaf to deaf-blind.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon Law allows individuals who are blind or blind and deaf to carry and use a white cane for mobility on highways and other public places. A person who is blind is a person who has 20/200 vision or less or having a visual field of 20 degrees or less. According to the American Optometric Association, 20/200 vision means the individual must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 200 feet.

House Bill 3160 allows an individual who has limited vision to carry and use a white cane on highways and other public places. The measure includes individuals who have limited vision within established offenses for unlawful use of white cane and for driver of motor vehicle failing to stop when individual who has limited vision is crossing a roadway. Limited vision is defined as a visual acuity not exceeding 20/70 and is no worse than 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses and blind is redefined to include a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses.