

SB 943 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands the list of reasonable uses of land that a city or county must allow wherever nonresidential places of worship are authorized, to include a parsonage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Freedom of religion
- Historical reasons officiants lived in or on same property as place of worship
- Treating urban and rural places of worship the same
- Attached versus detached; parsonage as accessory dwelling

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-3 amendment, dated 04.05.19] Provides for dwellings less than 2,500 square feet, within 300 feet of place of worship, and not on high-value farmland if it can be avoided.

BACKGROUND:

A parsonage is typically a dwelling that is provided by a religious institution for its officiant to live in. In Oregon, wherever a nonresidential place of worship is allowed on real property, cities and counties must allow reasonable uses of the property for activities associated with the particular religious practice, such as weddings, worship and instruction, and including residential housing. Such residential housing is allowed so long as at least half of what is available is affordable to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the median family income in the area; the property is within the urban growth boundary; and the property is zoned for such use and otherwise compliant with land use regulations and other development criteria.

Senate Bill 943 adds the development of a parsonage to the list of reasonable uses that cities and counties must allow where nonresidential places of worship are authorized, subject to siting and design regulations, and any local ordinances that establish standards to implement a comprehensive plan.