

SB 1503 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/24/20

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 8-2-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Barker, Lewis, Moore-Green, Noble, Piluso, Power, Sanchez, Sprenger

Nays: 2 - Bynum, Lawrence Spence

Exc: 1 - Greenlick

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that individual is guilty of driving under influence of intoxicants if individual has .08 percent or higher blood alcohol level within two hours of driving. Allows individual to assert affirmative defense if individual consumed sufficient alcohol amount after driving to account for test results. Requires 21 days' notice of affirmative defense. Defines "statutory counterpart" and specifies application. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- DUII assessment and arrest process
- Variation in laws between states
- Discussion of relevant court cases
- Potential for misuse of provisions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 813.010, prosecutors can prove that a person was driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) if they show that the person, at the time of driving, had a .08 percent or higher blood alcohol level, was under the influence of intoxicating liquor, cannabis, a controlled substance or an inhalant, or was under the influence of any combination thereof. Whether the person has the requisite blood alcohol level is determined by a breath or blood test, usually taken at a police station or medical facility. Depending on when and where the stop occurs, it may be several hours before the breath or blood test occurs. Additionally, if an individual has had two previous DUII convictions in the previous 10 years, any subsequent conviction will be considered a felony. The two prior convictions could have occurred in Oregon or in a state with a "statutory counterpart" to Oregon's DUII laws.

Senate Bill 1503-A provides that an individual is guilty of driving under the influence of intoxicants if that person is found to have a .08 or higher percent blood alcohol level within two hours of driving, and defines "statutory counterpart."