

HB 2481 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

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Meeting Dates: 4/22, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits Oregon law enforcement agencies from receiving certain aircraft, grenades, grenade launchers, and firearms silencers from the federal government. Limits what funds can be used to purchase surplus military equipment from the federal government. Specifies notice that must be given, and authorization received, before military surplus equipment not prohibited by measure can be received by various law enforcement agencies. Defines "law enforcement agency" and "police officer" to exclude tribal law enforcement. Specifies definitions for "firearms silencer" and "unmanned aircraft system."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for community based policing
- Federal military surplus programs
- Similar legislation in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nationwide, many law enforcement agencies receive grants for personnel, training, and equipment from the federal government. These grants, or internal agency funds, can be used to purchase equipment directly from federal agencies. Other federal programs allow agencies to receive surplus equipment for free through agencies such as the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The DLA manages surplus military equipment and supplies for the United States Department of Defense and has been authorized by Congress to transfer certain equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies. According to the DLA's website, it is prohibited from transferring equipment such as tanks, large caliber weapons and munitions, body armor, and explosives or pyrotechnics. Still, it may be possible for law enforcement agencies to purchase or receive this equipment from other federal agencies, including the United States Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, or through commercial sources.

House Bill 2481 A prohibits law enforcement agencies in Oregon from receiving certain surplus military equipment and requires agencies purchasing any surplus military equipment to receive permission from their relevant governing body or agency director, provide notification, and use only state or local funds.