

SB 300 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/04/21

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Findley, Frederick, Gorsek

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Lewis, McLain, Noble, Power

Exc: 1 - Nathanson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/9, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the State Board of Towing within the Department of Transportation. Authorizes Board to order the Department to deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a towing business certificate or letter of appointment to participate on rotational list of towing businesses for certain violations, and to impose civil penalties for certain violations. Establishes the State Board of Towing Account, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Becomes operative January 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of "predatory towing"
- Stakeholders involved in development
- Modeled after similar board in Montana
- How a board would address bad actors

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 300 establishes a nine-member State Board of Towing, consisting of members appointed by the Governor representing towing companies from large and small cities; companies that specialize in towing small and large vehicles; the insurance industry; Oregon State Police; chiefs of police; and consumer advocates. Members serve four-year staggered terms and are eligible for reappointment. The Board is to select its chair and vice-chair from its own members and to appoint an administrative officer. Voting on matters by towing company members is limited to two per vote, on a rotating basis.

Senate Bill 300 also establishes the State Board of Towing Account, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Account consists of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, and by a fee that may be imposed by rule on persons holding or applying for a towing business certificate.