

HB 3443 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of confidentiality for purposes of data collected by the Oregon Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bias Response Hotline. Makes victims of bias crimes and incidents eligible for DOJ's Address Confidentiality Program, protected leave from work, and ability to break a residential lease without penalty. Provides victims of all felony bias crimes the right to be consulted during plea negotiations. Requires imposition of mandatory no contact order at time of booking, release, or arraignment of a defendant accused of a bias crime. Directs DOJ to develop and deliver district attorney victim assistance training program. Makes DOJ personnel who staff hate crimes hotline eligible for home address confidentiality in Department of Motor Vehicle records.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 577, which modified Oregon's bias crime laws and included the creation of a statewide hotline for victims of bias crime incidents to connect with advocates who provide support, referrals, and systems navigation. In 2021, the Legislative Assembly increased funding for the hotline and related services. Reports to the hotline have continued to increase since its implementation.

House Bill 3443 would make a number of changes to the bias crime laws and aspects of the reporting hotline. The measure expands the confidentiality of reports. It would make victims of bias crimes and incidents eligible for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Address Confidentiality Program, able to break a lease without penalty, and eligible for protected leave from work. The measure expands certain rights for victims' of bias crimes and requires automatic issuance of a no contact order against the defendant at the time of booking, release officer decision, or arraignment to a defendant accused of a bias crime. Finally, the measure directs DOJ to develop and deliver a training program for district attorney victim assistance programs and adds DOJ personnel who staff the hate crimes hotline to the existing program allowing certain public employees to keep their home address confidential in Department of Motor vehicle records.