

SB 318 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/21/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/8, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates money to the Department of Justice for analyst and investigator positions to coordinate with local law enforcement, prosecutors and private sector loss prevention personnel tasked with investigating and prosecuting organized retail theft.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for coordinated statewide action
- Current data regarding organized retail theft in Oregon
- Effectiveness of similar positions in other programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon-based Organized Retail Crime Task Force (Task Force) was formed in 2022, and its members include public and private stakeholders with participation from local law enforcement, business representatives, and private loss prevention officers. Organized retail crime refers to groups operating multijurisdictional, coordinated schemes or enterprises to commit a variety of financial crimes, and sometimes include violent tactics. The Task Force distinguishes organized retail crime from petty shoplifting and states that it has a major impact on retailers in Oregon. In a survey conducted by the National Retail Federation (NRF) in 2022, retailers reported a 53 percent increase in organized retail theft nationwide over the past two years.

Senate Bill 318 A is one of three measures brought by the Oregon Organized Retail Crime Task Force. The measure appropriates money to the Department of Justice for new analyst and investigator positions to coordinate with local law enforcement investigators, prosecutors and private sector loss prevention personnel tasked with investigating and prosecuting organized retail theft.