

SB 900 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/21/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Organized Retail Theft Grant Program to assist cities, counties, Department of State Police, and community-based organizations in addressing organized retail theft. Directs Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to administer the program. Appropriates \$5,000,000 to the CJC for purposes of the program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other states with similar programs
- Focus on organized crime, not shoplifting
- Effectiveness of similar grant 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 900 A is one of three measures brought by the Oregon Organized Retail Crime Task Force. The measure would create and fund an Organized Retail Theft Grant Program to assist counties, cities, the Oregon State Police, and community-based organizations address organized retail theft.