

**SB 954 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

**Senate Committee On Judiciary****Action Date:** 03/28/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 3-2-0-0**Yeas:** 3 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski**Nays:** 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/15, 3/28**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Permits a judge to authorize search warrant in any judicial district where there is interrelated conduct in that district and the district of the judge issuing the warrant, and the interrelated conduct relates to certain controlled substance, psilocybin, or marijuana crimes. Defines interrelated conduct to include at least two incidents of activity connected by the same or similar intents, results, accomplices, victims, methods of commission, or connection to the same enterprise, and which are not isolated incidents. Prohibits an officer from applying for a warrant if the warrant request was already denied by judge in another district, except as already permitted when one or more objects of the search relate to an offense committed or triable in the judicial district authorizing the warrant. Clarifies that a duly assigned senior judge may issue warrants to the same extent as a circuit court judge, when authorized to do so by the presiding judge of that judicial district. Specifies a non-exclusive list of persons who may accompany an officer on execution of a search warrant as may be necessary for the successful execution of the warrant. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Intent to address large drug trafficking operations and labor trafficking
- Labor trafficking statutes and enforcement staffing need additional time
- Existing statewide task force for sex trafficking
- Concerns with judge shopping
- "Isolated incident" term's similarity with Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act requirements
- Steps to verify owner knowledge of how a renter may be using property
- Renter eviction protections

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Conforms changes relating to senior judges with provisions in House Bill 2225 (2023). Limits qualifying interrelated conduct to certain crimes relating to controlled substances, psilocybin, or marijuana. Prohibits an officer from applying for a warrant in a different judicial district if the warrant request was already denied by judge in another district, except as already permitted when one or more objects of the search relate to an offense committed or triable in the judicial district authorizing the warrant. Replaces term firefighters with "assistants to the State Fire Marshal" as persons who may be permitted to accompany law enforcement officers in the execution of a warrant.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Task Force on Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants and Illegal Cannabis Production was created by House Bill 3000 (2021), and expanded by Senate Bill 1564 (2022), to consider twelve subjects for legislation, including changes to state law relating to the processing of search warrants in order to increase efficiency. The Task Force made several recommendations, including the proposals contained in this measure.

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ORS 1.300 (4) provides that a senior judge has all the judicial powers as an elected judge while the senior judge is serving under assignment to a judicial district. House Bill 2225 was pre-session filed by the Oregon Judicial Department and proposed similar changes to ORS 133.545(3) to clarify that a duly appointed and authorized senior judge may authorize search warrants. The House Committee on Judiciary voted unanimously, with one member excused, to move HB 2225 with a do pass recommendation and referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Senate Bill 954 A authorizes issuance of a search warrant in any judicial district where there is interrelated conduct, clarifies that a duly authorized senior judge may issue a search warrant, and specifies persons who may accompany law enforcement in the execution of a search warrant.