

HB 2806 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser Blouin

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Action Date: 05/02/23

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-1-0

Yeas: 5 - Linthicum, Manning Jr, President Wagner, Thatcher, Woods

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the governing body of a public body to meet in executive session to consider the safety of the governing body, staff and volunteers of the public body, the security of public body facilities and meeting spaces, cybersecurity infrastructure, and responses to cybersecurity threats. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cybersecurity and security threats against public officials
- Safety planning, building security and threat assessments currently discussed in public meetings
- Definition of media in relation to the proposed measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When a quorum of a public body meets to discuss or deliberate on issues under a public body's purview, Oregon law mandates governing bodies of a public body to properly notice the public and conduct open meetings. However, under some circumstances, a public body may meet in executive session, in which the general public is not allowed to attend, though typically the media is permitted to cover the proceedings. With proper and adequate public notice, an executive session may be called during most types of meetings. In executive session, the governing body may deliberate solely on matters for which the executive session was called, and no final action may be taken during an executive session.

Circumstances under which a governing body may meet in executive session include: employment, dismissal, discipline, or job performance of public officers, employees or staff; labor negotiations; records exempt from public disclosure; consultation with counsel; negotiation of real property transactions, trade, or public investments; matters of medical competency; or security of sensitive sites.

House Bill 2806 A expands topic qualifications for public body executive sessions to include safety concerns of public body officials, staff, facilities, and cybersecurity.