

SB 939 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Kris Kolta, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) to develop and administer a grant program to assist eligible nonprofits in making security enhancements to protect against hate crimes.

Detailed Summary:

- Creates eligibility criteria based on whether a nonprofit is at risk of a hate crime, broadly defined as 1) an existing bias crime under ORS 166.155, 166.165, or 2) an offense based on an organization’s ideology, mission, or population served.
- Mandates that the ODEM create and administer the Oregon Nonprofit Security Grant Program to disseminate grants, subject to a yet unspecified upper limit, to eligible nonprofits for security enhancements.
- Defines security enhancements to include security assessments; trainings; personnel; upgrades in windows, doors, gates, or landscaping; and lighting, camera, alarm, or other security systems.
- Requires the ODEM to adopt rules for implementation and criteria for ranking grant applications based upon:
 - A nonprofit’s prospective risk of and previous experience being subject to a bias crime.
 - A nonprofit’s existing security measures.
- Establishes the Oregon Nonprofit Security Grant Program Fund in the State Treasury, appropriating an unspecified amount to be determined upon referral to the Ways and Means committee.
- Declares emergency; effective on passage

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Provisions of the measure.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment clarifies and tailors the measure as to grant eligibility criteria, administrative costs, permissible uses of grant funds, and the amount of each grant.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs that the grant eligibility criteria be applied without regard to an organization’s mission, ideology, or population served.
- Removes consideration of existing security measures from grant eligibility criteria.
- Expands the definition of security enhancements to include all measures designed to improve security.
- Clarifies that grants can be used for security at events held away from an organization’s facility.
- Caps grants at \$150,000 each.
- Allows the ODEM to spend up to 5% of the Fund on associated administrative costs.
- Directs interest earned by the Fund back to the Fund.

FISCAL: Indeterminate fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

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Senate Bill 577 (2019), codified in ORS 166.155 and 166.165 defined hate/bias crimes and incidents in Oregon and directed resources to respond to a rise in such incidents. It broadly defined bias crimes as those causing physical injury to another person because of the person's perception of the other person's race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. To track Oregon hate crimes, SB 577 also established the Oregon Bias Response Hotline and required the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to report annually on hate crimes. Pursuant to Hotline calls and CJC data, bias-motivated incidents increased more than 220% between 2020 and 2023 in Oregon. Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. *Executive Summary*, <https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/CJC%20Document%20Library/SB577ReportJul2024Exec.pdf>