

SB 275 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Kris Kolta, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/26, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure directs the Department of Justice to study ways to address retail theft.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment replaces the measure and modifies Oregon law as to computer crimes, theft, organized retail theft, and the organized retail theft grant program.

Detailed Summary:

- Clarifies that it is theft in the first degree 1) for an individual to commit theft by leveraging stolen property even when the individual is not involved in the initial theft, or 2) theft is committed through use of an emergency exit.
- Clarifies that one can commit organized retail theft either acting alone or with another.
- Expands the definition of computer crime to include any accessing of or entry into a computer to buy or sell stolen items.
- Modifies the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant Program to distribute grants to the Department of Justice, in addition to local law enforcement, and not to the Department of State Police or community-based organizations.
- Clarifies that grants may be used to purchase equipment, broadly defined.
- Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to provide a report on the ORT Grant Program to the judiciary committee by September 1, 2027.
- Declares emergency, effective on passage.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2026, except the modification to eligible grant recipients, which becomes operative on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Senate Bill 900 (2023), the purpose of the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant Program is to lend financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies, the Oregon State Police, and community-based organizations in addressing and prosecuting organized retail theft, as defined in ORS 164.098.

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) administers the ORT program and prioritizes grants to agencies and organizations that demonstrate the following:

- Ability to address organized retail theft that places employees and/or the public at risk of injury.
- Ability to identify and address organized retail theft rings.
- Ability to identify and address individuals or groups who have committed or are at risk of committing organized retail theft.
- Evidence of collaboration with retailers or law enforcement agencies.
- Operations designed to have a regional or statewide beneficial effect.

Funds awarded under the ORT program must be spent on addressing and prosecuting organized retail theft.