

SB 1036 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 4/7, 5/12, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Limits the authority of towers to independently tow motor vehicles. Clarifies where a towing vehicle may park while monitoring a parking facility.

Fiscal: No fiscal impact on original measure

Revenue: No revenue impact on original measure

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of predatory towing
- Question of who decides whether to tow in certain circumstances
- Not always feasible to try to reach management of apartment complexes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Towing companies in Oregon are generally called to respond to crashes or to vehicles unable to proceed on their own, either to return them to a home or to an automobile shop for repairs. ORS 98.853 outlines circumstances under which a tower may legally remove a motor vehicle (such as when the vehicle in question is blocking entrance to premises, blocks access to emergency vehicles, or are parked without permission at a parking facility used by residents of an apartment. Conversely, ORS 98.854 outlines restrictions on the ability of towers to remove a vehicle, including needing first be contacted by a property manager of the parking facility in question.

Senate Bill 1036 eliminates from statute a number of causes that can allow a tower to legally remove a vehicle from premises without first having been contacted by management.