

SB 275 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 5/5, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant Program and requires the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to report on the same by September 1, 2027. The measure modifies the ORT Grant Program to distribute grants to the Department of Justice, in addition to local law enforcement, and removes the Department of State Police and community-based organizations as grantees. It also clarifies that grants can be used to purchase equipment and broadly defines the term. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prior legislation to address organized retail theft
- House Bill 3069 (2025), with which this measure could be combined
- Department of Justice's need for these grants
- Types of equipment likely to be purchased with grants
- Lost economic activity resulting from retail theft

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 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.