

SB 939 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/06/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, McLane, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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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 or ORS 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 \$150,000 limit, to eligible nonprofits for security enhancements without regard to a nonprofit's mission, ideology, or population served.
- Defines security enhancements to include all measures designed to improve security at a nonprofit's facility or event, including
 - 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 and previous experience of being subject to a hate crime.
- Establishes the Oregon Nonprofit Security Grant Program Fund (the Fund) in the State Treasury, appropriating an unspecified amount.
- Allows the ODEM to spend up to five percent of the Fund on associated administrative costs.
- Directs interest earned by the Fund back to the Fund.
- Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Provisions of the measure.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

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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 percent between 2020 and 2023 in Oregon according to the [Oregon Criminal Justice Commission](#).