

SB 473 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Kropf**House Committee On Judiciary****Action Date:** 05/22/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-2-1-0**Yeas:** 5 - Andersen, Chaichi, Chotzen, Kropf, Tran**Nays:** 2 - Lewis, Wallan**Exc:** 1 - Mannix**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact**Prepared By:** Jules Dellinger, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 4/23, 5/22**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure adds a conviction for the crime of *menacing* committed against a public official to ORS 166.255(1), which prohibits the possession of firearms or ammunition by persons who are either the subject of certain court orders or who have been convicted of certain crimes such as stalking, and it defines "public official." Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of inclusion in definition of "public official"
- Free speech issues under Oregon and United States Constitutions
- Meaning of "threatening communication" and "direct" versus "indirect"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In a 2024 report, [Rising Threats to Public Officials](#), the Combatting Terrorism Center at West Point notes that the average number of federal charges for threatening public officials has increased in recent years, from an average of 38 between 2013 and 2016 to an average of 62 per year between 2017 and 2022. A 2024 [report](#) by the Brennan Center found that 43 percent of state legislators had experienced threats and that those threats affected some officeholders' willingness to continue service, address certain topics, or hold events in public spaces. Under ORS 166.255, it is currently unlawful for a person to knowingly possess a firearm or ammunition if the person is subject to certain court orders relating to stalking and other similar acts, if the person was convicted of a qualifying misdemeanor against specified relatives, or if the person was convicted of the crime of *stalking*. Senate Bill 473 B would add a conviction for *menacing* to that list when the victim was a "public official" at the time of the offense.