

# SUPPORT HB 3097 & SB 623 KEEPING OUR STREETS SAFE



Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer not only puts the suspect and officer at risk but everyone on the road. Current Oregon law does not include a penalty enhancement for when this behavior includes aggravating circumstances, like having a child in the car or if the fleeing results in physical injury to another person.

## HB 3097 & SB 623 proposes three enhancements to the crime of “Fleeing or attempting to elude police officers” (ORS 811.540):

- Increases from a crime category of 2 to 6 if the defendant also violates the careless driving statute or is driving impaired (DUII) or if the act results in damage to the property of another person.
- Further enhances the crime category to a level 8 if the defendant:
  - Has a prior conviction for fleeing/eluding police officer
  - Has a minor passenger in the car
  - Also violates reckless driving law
  - Also commits crime of reckless endangering another person
  - Act results in physical injury to another person
- Makes eluding a police officer, where the actions result in physical injury to another person, a “person felony” for the purposes of sentencing

HB 3097 and SB 623 proposes common sense sentence enhancements to create a deterrence for persons who habitually elude police officers, often driving recklessly at high speeds and while impaired. Eluding a police officer while in a motor vehicle is a significant risk to the safety of persons and property in our communities.