

## **SB 1516 -1, -2, -3, -4, -6, -7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/9, 2/11, 2/11, 2/16

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure is a public safety omnibus that adds threats to public officials to the crime of aggravated harassment. The measure also reinforces a magistrate's authority to consider primary and secondary release criteria when making a pretrial release decision. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

#### Detailed Analysis:

##### **Threats to Public Officials**

The measure adds threatening a public official to the crime of aggravated harassment, if the person intentionally subjects the official to alarm by conveying a threat to the public official or the public official's family to inflict serious physical injury on the public official or the public official's family. The measure limits the crime to threats that were intended to cause alarm, could be reasonably be expected to cause alarm, and which were conveyed because of the official's performance or nonperformance of a public duty, the status or position of the official, or any other factor related to the public official's office or duties.

##### **Pretrial Release Decisions**

Limits standing orders' effects on a magistrate's authority to consider primary and secondary release criteria when making a pretrial release decision, including community safety and the risk of failure to appear.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact but no statement yet issued

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Excluding purely political speech
- Proof of intent to cause alarm
- automated license plate reader data retention

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 The amendment removes the specifically named non-profit as the administrator of and technical assistance provider for Justice Reinvestment Equity Program sub-grants and directs the Criminal Justice Commission to select a culturally responsive technical assistance provider with prior experience working with subgrantees. It also details four technical assistance provider responsibilities.

-2 The amendment regulates law enforcement use of automated license plate readers.

#### **Detailed Summary**

- Limits how they may be used by law enforcement
- Provides sole control over captured license plate data to the law enforcement agency
- Prohibits vendors from accessing captured license plate data, except for limited technical assistance requested by the law enforcement agency.
- Specifies requirements for law enforcement agency policies and vendor contracts
- Provides audit requirements
- Makes captured license plate data exempt from public records requests with an exception for redacted logs
- Includes a private right of action for vendor violation of data access restrictions

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

- Restricts captured license plate data retention to no more than 30 days, unless relevant to an investigation or prosecution and covered by evidentiary retention requirements.
- 3 The amendment requires state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal law enforcement concerning persons charged with or convicted of a crime constituting a felony or Class A misdemeanor under Oregon law, notwithstanding other provisions of Oregon law.
- 4 The amendment replaces the measure and requires state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal law enforcement concerning persons charged with or convicted of a crime constituting a felony or Class A misdemeanor under Oregon law, notwithstanding other provisions of Oregon law.
- 6 The amendment removes the provisions adding threats to public officials to the crime of aggravated harassment.
- 7 Requires non-governmental trial attorneys to provide 120 hours of public defense services, if they have appeared in any Oregon court case in 2026, and requires the Oregon State Bar to train them in criminal defense law.

**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. Prior enacted legislation directed at this issue limited the public's accessibility to residential addresses for certain public officials' residential addresses required in documents filed with the Secretary of state or contained in its voter registration system, except through a public records request. These include House Bill 3073 (2023) for candidates for public office and Senate Bill 224 (2025) for individuals associated with a candidate's principal campaign committee, political committee, or petition committee, starting in 2027. House Bill 4144 (2022) allowed election workers to exempt their residential addresses from disclosure as a public record. Senate Bill 473 (2025) (not enacted) as introduced would have created a standalone crime of threatening a public official, while Senate Bill 1530 would add threatening a public official to the crime of aggravated harassment, a Class C felony.