

SB 1516 -1, -2, -3, -4, -6, -7, -8, -9, -10, -11, -12, -13, -14 STAFF

MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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

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: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Excluding purely political speech as threats
- automated license plate reader data use and 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.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

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

Detailed Summary

- Limits how they may be used by law enforcement
- Provides the law enforcement agency sole control over captured license plate data
- 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

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- Requires law enforcement agencies to log certain information, including the purpose for the search and also the specific type of crime or violation if the search relates to an investigation
- Requires monthly and quarterly audits from the vendor, which must be made public by the agency within two days
- 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
- 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.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

-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.

-8 The amendment incorporates and reorganizes the -2 amendments, with additional changes.

Detailed Summary

- Adds clarifying language to the definition of end-to-end encryption (Section 4(5)), and add a definition of "hotlist" (Section 4 (6))
- Adds specific references to Oregon laws that are contrary to using the automated license plate reader system to identify vehicles associated with federal crimes or a person for whom there is an outstanding federal judicial warrant (Section 5 (2)(a)(C) and (2)(c)(C))
- Permits a law enforcement agency to request data from a non-law enforcement agency (Section 5 (7))
- Permits the agency to require the vendor to provide direct public access to the audit (Section 7 (3)(b))
- Limits private right of action for damages to intentional or grossly negligent vendor violations (Section 10 (2))

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

-9 The amendment requires state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal law enforcement in actions concerning any person convicted of a crime constituting a felony under Oregon law.

-10 The amendment replaces the measure and requires state and local law enforcement to cooperate with federal law enforcement in actions concerning any person convicted of a crime constituting a felony under Oregon law.

-11 The amendment incorporates the -8 but revises the exception for use related to federal crimes and federal warrants by confining the reference to Oregon public policy to ORS 24.500, and adding ORS 181A.250 to laws restricting use of public resources for prohibited enforcement activities.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

-12 The amendment combines the -1, -6 and -11 amendments.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

-13 The amendment incorporates the -11 amendment but removes the definition of "end-to-end encryption."

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

-14 The amendment combines the -1, -6, and -13 amendments.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: Has minimal revenue impact

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.