74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bonamici, Cameron, Flores, Komp, Krieger, Read, Whisnant, Macpherson

MEASURE:

CARRIER:

HB 3407 A

Rep. Cameron

Nays: 0 Exc.: Barker

Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/25, 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts from disclosure, unless the public interest requires otherwise, the home address and telephone number contained in the voter registration records of a district attorney or deputy district attorney, an assistant attorney general designated by the Attorney General, if the person requests that this information not be disclosed. Exempts from public disclosure, unless the public interest requires otherwise, the name of a public safety officer, a district attorney or assistant attorney general designated by the Attorney General contained in county real property assessment or taxation records, if the person so requests. Applies only to: (1) specific property identified in the request for exemption from disclosure; and (2) Records that may be made immediately available to the public upon request in person, by telephone or the internet. Does not apply to disclosure of records among public bodies. Applies to records in the custody of a public body on or after the effective date of this Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to protect public safety officers and other person in the criminal justice arena
- Consideration of a fee to cover costs associated with removal of information
- Home address and telephone number of public safety officer is already exempted from disclosure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the bill.

BACKGROUND: Oregon law, ORS 192.420, presumes that the public has a right to inspect and copy all public records, unless a specific exemption allows the public body not to disclose. Nonetheless, this right is not absolute. ORS 192.501 lists 29 types of records that are not subject to public disclosure unless the public interest requires disclosure in the particular instance. ORS 192.502 lists 34 types of records that are uncategorically exempted from disclosure including the home address, telephone number and e-mail address of a public safety officer. In addition, ORS 192.445 allows an individual to submit a written request to a public body asking that the body not disclose a specified public record indicating the home address, personal telephone number or electronic mail address of the individual and prohibits the public body from disclosing this information upon a showing that person's or his or her family's public safety would be compromised by release of this information.