

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes local governments to enact ordinances prohibiting unauthorized appropriation of a shopping cart from a business premise and to provide for salvage of an abandoned shopping cart. Specifies that such an ordinance require the owner to: (1) post notices on the premises and on each cart that unauthorized removal is a crime under ORS 164.015; (2) provide a toll-free number to report abandoned carts; and (3) retrieve carts within 72 hours. Also provides that the ordinance must allow the local government to take custody of a cart after 72 hours post-notice and fine the owner up to \$50.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Removal of shopping carts currently a crime (theft)
- Large monetary cost in loss of carts
- Neighborhood feelings about abandoned shopping carts
- Work by neighborhood associations and grocers on the bill
- Whether small communities would want a different approach
- Willingness of grocers to accommodate other businesses on the toll-free number

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original bill, which would have created a new misdemeanor crime of unauthorized use of a shopping cart and mandated action by store owners statewide.

BACKGROUND: The removal, misuse, and abandonment of shopping carts away from the parking lots of grocers and other businesses is a continual problem for the business owners, neighborhoods surrounding the stores, and local governments attempting to keep streets, parks, open areas, and neighborhoods free from eyesores and hazards. Store owners are often unaware of the location of their abandoned shopping carts. If the carts are used for other purposes or abandoned for long periods of time, they are more likely to be damaged and useless when they are retrieved or returned. The carts cost between \$100 and \$300 each and the Northwest Grocery Association estimates their members in the Portland and Salem metropolitan areas lose 3,500 carts a week. Some stores use retrieval services or use employee time to locate, retrieve, repair, and clean shopping carts.

SB 645-A would provide a standard but optional ordinance for local governments. If any cities adopt the ordinance, store owners could establish a coordinated statewide toll-free number and business notice system for reporting the location of abandoned carts to speed their retrieval. Removal of a shopping cart is already considered theft. The posted notice requirements in the bill are intended as a means of deterrence instead of a means to increase prosecutions.