

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	7 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Rosenbaum, Smith P., Schaufler
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/18

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**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 salvaging an abandoned shopping cart. Specifies that such an ordinance require the owner to post notices on the premises and on each cart that unauthorized removal is a crime under ORS 164.015; provide a toll-free number to report abandoned carts; retrieve or contract to retrieve abandoned carts; and retrieve carts within 72 hours. 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:**

- Level of media and public policy interest on the measure
- Reporting requirements
- What happens when a city has to take possession of a shopping cart

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Establishes that the measure does not preclude a local government to enact or adopt an ordinance that is subject to but not in compliance with the measure's provisions. Adds an additional requirement for the owner to retrieve or contract to retrieve abandoned shopping carts.

**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-B 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.