75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY House Committee on Judiciary

MEASURE: CARRIER:

FISCAL: No fiscal impact	
Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
Nays:	Shields
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/31, 4/8

REVENUE: No revenue impact **FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates the sunset date on the conditional exemption from disclosure of public records the name, home address or professional location of a person associated with medical research conducted on animals at OHSU. The amendment adds a four year sunset date into the original bill.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Safety concerns for researchers and their families
- Targeted attacks by Animal Liberation Front
- Property damage and death threats
- Transparency in research institutions
- Public Records Requests and OHSU compliance
- Public funds for research
- Sunset to ensure accountability

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: The amendment adds a four year sunset date into the original bill.

BACKGROUND: Researchers working at OHSU who conduct medical research on animals face serious threats from extreme animal rights groups. Since 2003, there have been over 50 separate incidents of home harassment targeted at these researchers. The threats and harassment place not only the researchers, but also their families, at risk. HB 3094 was first passed in 2003 with the aim at providing a minimum of protection for these researchers. At that time the sunset date was two years. In 2005, the legislature again passed the measure, that time extending the sunset to four years. The proponents bring the bill this year to seek another four year extension of the sunset.

The measure has always been narrowly drafted to allow access to virtually all of the proposed or ongoing research being conducted at OHSU. That information includes specific descriptions of scientific proposals, justifications for the use of animals in the proposals, plans for the minimization of pain and suffering to animals used in the studies, and medical and animal care records on each animal. Likewise, the terms, conditions and payments made to companies providing the animals for research is available.