

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2710 - A

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

Prepared by: John Terpening
Reviewed by: Monica Brown, Steve Bender, Linda Gilbert
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Measure Description:

Provides that drone may be used by law enforcement agency for purpose of surveillance of person only pursuant to warrant or in emergency circumstances.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Oregon State Police (OSP), Department of Justice, Judicial Department, Department of Aviation

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure provides that a drone may be used by a law enforcement agency for purpose of surveillance of person only pursuant to a warrant or in emergency circumstances. Additionally, the measure imposes restrictions on the use of drones by private parties and public entities and creates various crimes for unauthorized use of drones that include Class A and Class C felonies for improper use.

The measure requires the Department of Aviation to establish a registry of drones and may charge a fee sufficient to reimburse the department for the maintenance of the registry operative January 2, 2016. The measure allows the department to establish rules for the registration of drones and to take necessary action prior to the operative date to allow for implementation. The department is directed to report to the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2014 on the status of federal regulations relating to unmanned aerial vehicles and whether those vehicles operated by private parties should be registered in Oregon similar to other aircraft.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. Currently there are no known drones in use by law enforcement agencies or public bodies. The establishment of a Class A and Class C felony may have an effect on the Department of Corrections prison population or Community Corrections probation caseload, the Judicial Department, Public Defense Service Commission, and District Attorney's and their Deputies, but this impact is anticipated to be minimal.

The Department of Aviation anticipates needing to implement software conversions to the existing database in order to be able to register unmanned aerial vehicles. This conversion is anticipated to have a minimal cost to the department in 2013-2015. The department anticipates utilizing existing staff to establish rules for the program. Depending on the number of drones that may need to be registered beginning in 2016, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements for the department in the future should this legislation pass.