

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

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

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**Action:** Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

**Vote:** 3 - 2 - 0

**Yeas:** Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Shields

**Nays:** Baertschiger, George

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/24, 5/31

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires cities with populations greater than 15,000 establish maximum rates towers may charge for towing motor vehicle within city boundaries. Permits counties to establish maximum towing rates in county areas outside of cities with populations greater than 15,000. Provides authority to cities with population under 15,000 to set maximum charge for towing if county fails to do so. Requires towers obtain annual license from city or county if towing vehicles without prior consent or authorization of owner or operator of motor vehicle. Requires city or county to develop process for receiving and responding to towing complaints. Requires towers hold license from city or county to tow within jurisdiction. Prohibits tower from charging for hook up and release of vehicle, except as provided in ORS 98.856. Becomes operative January 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Local control and oversight of towers
- County concerns with mandatory language led to further amendments
- City process for determining towing rates
- Desire for reasonable fees from consumer advocates

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Modifies provisions on city and county licensing duties and requirements. Permits county to establish maximum rates tower may charge for towing a motor vehicle in county areas outside of cities with populations greater than 15,000. Provides city of population under 15,000 authority to set maximum charge for towing if county fails to do so. Requires cities with populations greater than 15,000 establish maximum rates. Requires development of complaint process. Requires towers hold license from city or county to tow within jurisdiction. Prohibits tower from charging for hook up and release of vehicle, except as provided in ORS 98.856.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Portland began regulating private party impound towing (PPI) in 1988 and upgraded its practices in 2003. Other cities around the state regulate towing within city boundaries. Current Oregon law applies some restrictions and limitation on towing charges, but does not specify a maximum rate for towing or related activities.

House Bill 3159-B requires all cities with populations over 15,000 to establish maximum towing rates and to develop a regulatory system for licensing towers and a process for receiving complaints.

6/6/2013 4:19:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*