

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Judiciary

MEASURE: SB 614
CARRIER: Sen. Knopp

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/04/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/04

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

Prepared By: Laura Handzel, Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows peace officers to enter motor vehicle and impound animal when authorized by law and with probable cause to believe animal is being subjected to certain criminal offenses.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislation requested specifically to address animals left in hot motor vehicles
- Dogs' heightened physiological response to heat
- Stanford University study on dogs in hot vehicles and minimum impact of rolled down windows
- Need for authority to rescue animals from vehicles and examples
- Rate of occurrence of about 12 times per week during summer months
- Rate of criminal prosecution

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law provides that peace officers may enter a premises with a search warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe an animal is being subjected to treatment in violation of certain ORS sections. Current law, however, does not contain the same provision for animals contained in motor vehicles.

Senate Bill 614 clarifies the law to provide the same protection to peace officers when the animal is contained in a vehicle.