

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes pre-employment polygraph examinations for law enforcement officer applicants. Prohibits post-employment polygraph examinations of law enforcement officers. Exempts results and reports from such examinations from public records disclosure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No Amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Certain law enforcement agencies would like the option to use polygraph examinations as a tool to screen law enforcement candidates to ensure the hiring of the highest quality law enforcement officers. The Police Executive Research Forum and the International City County Managers Association have recommended the use of polygraph examinations in screening law enforcement officer candidates. Several states allow for this use of polygraph examination.

Oregon law prohibits polygraph examinations as a condition of employment or continuation of employment. Violation of this law is an A misdemeanor. It is also considered an unlawful employment practice subject to administrative and civil enforcement.

Senate Bill 1555 amends existing law to allow for polygraph examination as a condition of employment for law enforcement officers. It does not allow the use of polygraph examination of law enforcement officers during their employment. SB 1555 also exempts polygraph examinations and the materials associated with those examinations conducted pursuant to this measure from disclosure under public records law.