

SB 927 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides immunity from product liability for law enforcement dog seller once dog begins approved training. Defines law enforcement dog.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon statute, a seller or lessor of a dog used by law enforcement may be held civilly liable for injuries caused by that dog. Recently, an officer who had been injured by one of his agency's dogs brought a lawsuit against a California seller. That seller is no longer providing dogs to Oregon law enforcement agencies and there is concern that other dealers are also reluctant to sell or lease dogs to Oregon agencies.

Senate Bill 927 provides sellers and lessors of law enforcement dogs with immunity from liability under product liability statutes for injuries caused by their dogs. SB 927 defines a law enforcement dog as one that is purchased or leased by law enforcement with the intention that the dog will receive the training required to be qualified as a law enforcement animal under ORS 1677.310(7). The immunity provision would take effect once the dog has started a training program approved by a law enforcement agency or accredited and recognized by an animal handling organization.