

**HB 3160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Human Services**

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/26

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Permits individual with limited vision to carry and use a white cane on highways and other public places. Defines “limited vision.” Modifies definition of “blind.”

*FISCAL: Minimal Expenditure Impact*

*REVENUE: No Revenue Impact*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law allows individuals who are blind or blind and deaf to carry and use a “white cane” for mobility when crossing highways and other public places. The white cane signals to drivers that the carrier is blind, and failure to stop and wait for a pedestrian with a white cane to cross a motorway is a traffic violation. It is also a traffic violation for a person who is not blind to carry and use a white cane. A “blind” person is one who has 20/200 vision or less or has a visual field of 20 degrees or less. According to the American Optometric Association, 20/200 vision means the individual must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 200 feet.

House Bill 3160-A allows an individual who has “limited vision” to carry and use a white cane on highways and other public places. It exempts those with limited vision from offenses for unlawful use of white cane. The measure defines “limited vision” as a visual acuity not exceeding 20/70 and is no worse than 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses. The measure also modifies the definition of “blind” to include a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with corrective lenses.