

HB 2721 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 6/12, 6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands the crime of assault in the third degree to include physical injury to flaggers and highway workers performing official duties.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure
- Importance of safety for road workers
- Amendment to remove Task Force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes Task Force on Road Worker Safety.

BACKGROUND:

There are four levels of assault in Oregon: Assault in the Fourth Degree, usually an A misdemeanor; Assault in the Third Degree, usually a C felony; Assault in the Second Degree, a B felony; and Assault in the First Degree, an A felony. Assault in the Fourth Degree is committed when a person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causes physical injury to another. There are a variety of acts included in Assault in the Third Degree, such as intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing physical injury, by means other than a motor vehicle, to the operator of a taxi while the operator is in control of the taxi. HB 2721 expands Assault in the Third Degree to include intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing physical injury to a flagger or highway worker who is performing official duties. It also defines flagger and highway worker.