

SB 375 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates non-profit volunteer program to supplying informational materials on sex trafficking to Department of Transportation, State Parks and Recreation Department, and Travel Information Council for distribution in rest areas across state. Limits information on informational materials to objectively verifiable information and requires at least one toll-free telephone hotline and one hotline text messaging number be included. Requires informational materials be provided in languages other than English most commonly spoken in state. Prohibits nonprofit from charging agency for materials. Establishes Department of Transportation Human Trafficking Awareness Fund for purposes of funding nonprofit volunteer program. Becomes effective only upon Department of Transportation and State Parks and Recreation Department adopting rules indicating they have received sufficient appropriations to cover cost of program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, over 300 calls relating to reports of human trafficking in Oregon were received by the Hotline in 2016. Trafficking can include domestic services, such as housekeeping or child care, food-service trafficking, or sex trafficking.

Senate Bill 375 provides statutory authority for the creation of a public-private partnership to distribute information on human trafficking within Oregon's rest areas. Nonprofit organizations may supply information to agencies with oversight of rest areas, so long as the information is objectively verifiable and includes one toll free telephone hotline and one text messaging hotline. The agencies can refuse to display or distribute the information if it deems it is offensive or inappropriate. SB 375 creates a fund for the implementing the program, but does not bring the program into effect until the affected agencies determine that they have received sufficient appropriations to begin the program.