



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

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DATE: February 15, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Leah Horner, Government Relations Manager
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SUBJECT: SB 375

INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 375 directs agencies to allow informational materials about human trafficking awareness to be posted in roadside rest areas.

DISCUSSION

The Oregon Department of Transportation owns and operates rest areas throughout the state; 11 directly by the agency and another 29 through the Oregon Travel Experience.

Senate Bill 375 directs agencies to allow for notices on human trafficking awareness to be posted in roadside rest areas. As state highway funds cannot be used to fund the placement and coordination of the notices, the bill sets up a Human Trafficking Awareness Fund and allows the fund to receive gifts, grants or contributions from both public and private sources to support the posting of the notices in rest areas. The bill directs both ODOT and State Parks and Recreation Department to adopt rules after each agency has received adequate funds to carry out the program.

SB 375 does not require, but would allow for the notices to be placed in rest areas throughout the state, both on the Interstate highways and other highways. The bill provides for an avenue for ODOT to work with a non-profit organization to establish an agreement, allowing a non-profit to post and maintain the notices in rest areas. By taking this approach, ODOT believes it can keep implementation costs to a minimum.

SUMMARY

ODOT will work with non-profit organizations to place and maintain notices about human trafficking awareness in its rest areas around the state. The bill as written allows for ODOT to establish an agreement with a non-profit, which minimizes the costs to the agency and the funds that will need to be raised in the Human Trafficking Awareness Fund to implement the bill.