79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Prepared by:	Kim To
Reviewed by:	Steve Bender, John Borden, Theresa McHugh, Ken Rocco
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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Anonymous Text Message Services.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, Department of Justice, Judicial Department, Legislative Assembly

Analysis:

House Bill 3061 creates the 9-member Task Force on Anonymous Text Message Services charged with studying the changes needed in Oregon law to regulate and prohibit the use of internet websites to send anonymous abusive and harassing text messages, as well as for the delivery of controlled substances. The task force is required to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by September 15, 2019. The task force becomes effective on January 1, 2018 and sunsets on December 31, 2019.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

The bill directs the Attorney General to appoint five of the nine members of the task force, one of which would be a representative from the Department of Justice. In addition, DOJ is required to provide staffing support to the task force. DOJ anticipates reprioritizing duties and responsibilities of existing staff to support the task force.

Legislative Assembly

The bill specifies that non-legislative members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation and reimbursement. However, four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. The estimated per diem and travel reimbursement cost for the four legislative members is \$804 per day. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, and assumes per diem remains at \$142 per day, and the average mileage of 90 miles at the current rate of \$0.535 per mile. Although the 2017-19 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committee and task force, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2017-19 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during Legislative Session, Task force or Legislative Days.

Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (BPPPS)

This bill is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on OJD and BPPPS. The bill authorizes the courts, the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, and local supervisory authorities to impose special conditions of probation prohibiting persons convicted of certain crimes from the use of internet websites that provide anonymous text message services.