

**LC 81 (6/18/20) STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020**

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**Prepared By:** Gillian Fischer, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits law enforcement agencies from using tear gas, long range acoustic devices, or sound cannons in all circumstances. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

Tear gas, long range acoustic devices, and sound cannons are devices used by various law enforcement agencies for several purposes, including to control riots and disburse crowds. There is no statute that prohibits or limits the use of these devices by law enforcement. The Merriam-Webster dictionary (online) defines tear gas as “a solid, liquid, or gaseous substance that on dispersion in the atmosphere irritates mucous membranes resulting especially in blinding of the eyes with tears.” Meanwhile, Oregon statute does not define tear gas as having a specific chemical composition, though several statutes distinguish between tear gas, mace, and pepper mace. See ORS 163.211.

LC 81 prohibits law enforcement agencies from using tear gas, long range acoustic devices, and sound cannons in all circumstances.