

SB 548 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Justice to conduct study of consumer protections and towing and to report findings to legislature.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Creates State Board of Towing. Establishes nine member board and administrative officer position. Grants rulemaking authority. Empowers board to investigate complaints, penalize violations, and order removal of tower from State Police rotation list. Directs Department of Transportation to impose disciplinary action as requested by board. Lists funding sources. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, there is no single state agency tasked with overseeing the towing industry. Because of this, there is often confusion about where complaints against towers should be directed and which agency should investigate those complaints. The Oregon Department of Justice, which has limited civil jurisdiction under the Unlawful Trade Practices Act, has an ongoing towing workgroup to come up with solutions to address these problems.

SB 548 requires the Department of Justice to conduct study of consumer protections and towing and to report the findings to the legislature.