

SB 54 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Action Date: 01/22/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Girod, Hass, Olsen, Riley

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Department of Aviation (ODA) to assess civil penalty up to \$2,500 for violation of landing rules. Dedicates penalties recovered to administration of landing rules.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Aurora State Airport control tower and history of runway violations
- Mechanism for assessing civil penalty and due process for individuals accused of violation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) promotes, develops, and improves Oregon's aviation system. Current statute allows ODA and other public officials in charge of state-owned land to propose rules designating landing places for aircraft. Those rules must be approved by the State Aviation Board. Current statute does not establish a penalty for violation of landing rules approved by the board.

Pedestrians and vehicles entering the runway are a violation of ODA's landing rules, and state airports with a control tower must report those violations to the Federal Aviation Administration. Repeat violations can jeopardize federal funding for that airport. The Aurora State Airport is currently the only airport overseen by ODA that has a control tower. The control tower was added in 2015 and the Aurora State Airport recorded 23 runway violations that year. Posting signs and community outreach reduced the total violations in 2018 to six. The agency believes civil penalties are necessary to encourage compliance and ensure federal funds for the Aurora State Airport are not compromised.

Senate Bill 54 allows ODA to assess a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each violation of the landing rules and dedicates penalties to the administration of the landing rules.