

SB 54 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Evans**Joint Committee On Transportation****Action Date:** 05/01/19**Action:** Do Pass.**House Vote****Yeas:** 7 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, McKeown, McLain, Noble, Witt**Senate Vote****Yeas:** 5 - Bentz, Beyer, Boquist, Frederick, Gelser**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 5/1**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes the Oregon Department of Aviation to impose civil penalty for violations related to landing places for aircraft.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Issues at Aurora Airport

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1921, Oregon formed the Aviation Board to develop a system of airports. Oregon has over 90 public-use airports and 300 private-use airports. Public-use airports are open to any pilot without prior permission. Pilots may land in areas not designated as public-use airports by obtaining prior permission. 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.