

SB 1503 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that individual is guilty of driving under influence of intoxicants if individual has .08 percent or higher blood alcohol level within two hours of driving. Allows individual to assert affirmative defense if individual consumed sufficient alcohol amount after driving to account for test results. Requires 21 days' notice of affirmative defense. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

No revenue impact

Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- DUIL assessment and arrest process
- Affirmative defense provisions
- Variation in laws between states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Creates definition for "statutory counterpart" and specifies application.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 813.010, prosecutors can prove that a person was driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUIL) if the person, at the time of driving, had a .08 percent or higher blood alcohol level; was under the influence of intoxicating liquor, cannabis, a controlled substance or an inhalant; or was under the influence of any combination thereof. Whether the person has the requisite blood alcohol level is determined by a breath or blood test, usually taken at a police station or medical facility. Depending on when and where the stop occurs, it may be several hours before the test occurs. Additionally, if an individual has had two previous DUIL convictions in the previous 10 years, any subsequent conviction will be considered a felony. The two prior convictions could have occurred in Oregon or in a state with a "statutory counterpart."

Senate Bill 1503 provides that an individual is guilty of driving of the influence of intoxicants if that person is found to have a .08 or higher percent blood alcohol level within two hours of driving unless the person provides an affirmative defense.