

SB 1545 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/04/20

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Dembrow, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Olsen, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon State Police to maintain a patrol trooper staffing level of at least 15 troopers per 100,000 residents beginning January 1, 2030.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Historical levels of trooper staffing
- Many counties without twenty-four hour law enforcement coverage by Oregon State Police or county Sheriff
- Oregon's state law enforcement trooper staffing levels are lowest in nation
- Oregon State Police's role in reducing traffic fatalities and increasing safety on highways and interstates

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon State Police (OSP) enforces traffic laws, investigates crimes, conducts forensic analysis, provides background checks and collects and distributes law enforcement data. OSP also regulates gaming, the handling of hazardous materials and fire codes, maintains the sex offender registry, and enforces fish, wildlife, and natural resource laws. Oregon currently has 454 total sworn Patrol Division officer positions to serve a population of over 4 million residents. In 2016, OSP had 8 troopers per 100,000 persons. At a high in the 1970's, there were nearly 30 troopers per 100,000 people.

Senate Bill 1545 requires OSP to bring patrol trooper staffing levels up to 15 troopers per 100,000 state residents beginning January 1, 2030.