

SB 742 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Carrier: Sen. Knopp

Action Date: 04/06/21
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Anderson, Golden, Jama, Patterson
Nays: 1 - Linthicum
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Restricts local governments from prohibiting certain alarm systems or battery-charged fences. Requires warning signs for battery-charged fences.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Competition in security fence industry
- Local government regulations
- Legal liability for security fence firms
- Other states with similar laws
- Health effects on humans and animals from contact with battery-charged fences
- International Electrotechnical Commission standards
- Involvement of cities and counties in policymaking process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires 30-foot intervals of warning signs rather than 60-foot intervals.

BACKGROUND:

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a global membership organization of electrotechnology companies that develops uniform technical standards for industry products, such as alarm systems and battery-charged fences. Governments and firms may choose to adopt IEC standards. In Oregon, local governments are authorized to regulate alarm systems and battery-charged fences.

Battery-charged fences connect with alarm systems to contact law enforcement and generate no more than 12 volts of direct current. Battery-charged fences are height-limited and must be surrounded by a nonelectric perimeter fence or wall.

Senate Bill 742 A restricts local governments from prohibiting the installation or use of battery-charged fences and bars local requirements that conflict with IEC standards. (Local governments may still require a permit for the installation or use of a battery-charged fence.) The measure also requires warning signs to be posted at regular intervals for all battery-charged fences.