

HB 2772 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a new Class B felony, domestic terrorism.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Defines relevant terms. Creates crime of domestic terrorism. Specifies that crime of domestic terrorism in the first degree is a Class B felony and is committed if a person intentionally destroys or substantially damages critical infrastructure, or intentionally introduces, releases or disperses a toxic substance into widespread contact with humans. Specifies that domestic terrorism in the second degree is a Class C felony and is committed if a person intentionally possesses a toxic substance with the intent to introduce it into widespread contact with human, intentionally possesses a destructive device with the intent to destroy or substantially damage critical infrastructure, or intentionally attempts to engage in conduct that would constitute domestic terrorism in the first degree. Makes conforming amendments.

BACKGROUND:

According to an Advisory Report released by the Oregon Secretary of State and Oregon Audits Division in March 2022, Oregon ranked sixth in the nation for the number of domestic violent extremist incidents between 2011 and 2020, with the number rising precipitously from 2019 to 2021. The U.S. Department of Justice is the governing entity that most often brings domestic terrorism and violent extremism charges against individuals. However, several states also have legislation defining and criminalizing such activity.

Oregon does not currently define or criminalize domestic terrorism or violent extremism. House Bill 2772 creates a new crime of domestic terrorism and designates it a Class B felony. House Bill 2772 defines domestic terrorism as intentionally attempting to cause catastrophic harm.