

## SB 1503 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Judiciary

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**Action Date:** 02/13/24

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

**Vote:** 3-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski

**Nays:** 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Amie Fender-Sosa, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 2/13

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention (Task Force), staffed by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

##### Detailed Summary:

Establishes the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention (Task Force), staffed by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Two members from the Senate, one from the minority party, must be appointed by the Senate President (nonvoting), and two members from the House, one from the minority party, must be appointed by the Speaker of the House (nonvoting) and 13 members with specific backgrounds and a consideration for geographic diversity must be appointed by the governor, for a total of 17 members.

Directs the Task Force to study specific issues related to public health best practices for reducing deaths from community safety threats and for suicide prevention. Permits the Task Force to contract with third parties to research those issues. Requires the Task Force to coordinate with:

- The DOJ
- The Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon
- Sheriff departments that provide for voluntary storage of firearms
- Local faith-based groups
- The Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide

Directs the Task Force to submit reports to the interim legislative committees related to health care, by September 15, 2024, and September 15, 2025. Appropriates \$400,000 from the General Fund to the DOJ to fund research ordered by the Task Force. Sunsets the measure on December 31, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers needed between troubled people and guns
- Resources for people in crisis
- Suicide by gun, suffocation, other means
- Intersection of domestic violence / intimate partner issues and suicide in Oregon
- Task force membership: missing representation from firearm consumer groups; those with lived experience
- Supports for law enforcement and current laws
- Concerns about combining gun issues with mental health in single bill
- Percentage of suicides that are committed with handguns

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- HB 4096 (2024) time and distance needed to prevent suicide

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Suicide is among the leading causes of death in Oregon. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) monitors suicide rates, understanding certain circumstances and risk factors can be useful for suicide prevention. Preventing deaths from suicide is one of seven priority areas of Oregon's State Health Improvement Plan. According to the OHA Center for Health Statistics, in 2022, 878 people died by suicide; 477 of those suicides were by firearm, followed by suffocation and drug overdoses. Suicide was the tenth leading cause of death.