

HB 4151 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates a new Class C felony under the existing crime of initiating a false report, wherein a person intentionally causes the deployment of an “enhanced law enforcement response” and, as a result, recklessly causes serious physical injury to or the death of another person. The measure designates this offense a person felony. The measure defines “enhanced law enforcement response” as a response that involves both the dispatch of two or more officers and one of several other characteristics, such as the evacuation of bystanders, specialized tactical teams, or the initiation of shelter-in-place directives.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 52; Nays, 3

FISCAL IMPACT: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE IMPACT: Has minimal revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Severity of harm required
- Mental state required

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, a person commits the crime of initiating a false report if they knowingly send a false alarm to law enforcement or other emergency organizations (see ORS 162.375). The crime is a Class A misdemeanor and, if a SWAT team or similar group is deployed, the statute requires the sentencing court to impose at least 10 days of incarceration and 30 days if someone died or was seriously physically injured. “Swatting”—named after the law enforcement special weapons and tactics teams commonly called SWAT—is when a person reports a false emergency to emergency personnel, such as law enforcement, to elicit a law enforcement response, sometimes to a particular location or a particular person’s location. In April 2025, an [active shooter threat at Silverton High School](#) turned out to be one such swatting event. The school was locked down, and law enforcement swept the school before ultimately determining the call to have been a hoax.