

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the B-Engrossed Measure. (Printed C-Engrossed)

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Starr, Rosenbaum

Nays: Ferrioli

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows cities to establish maximum towing rates, regardless of city population. Permits counties to establish maximum towing rates. Specifies county rates do not apply to vehicles towed within city boundaries if city establishes maximum towing rates. Requires towers obtain annual license from city or county if towing vehicles without prior consent. Clarifies tower is not required to obtain county license if tower tows vehicle from within city boundaries and tower is licensed by city. Requires city or county to develop process for receiving and responding to towing complaints. Prohibits tower from charging for hook up and release of vehicle, except as provided in ORS 98.856. Becomes operative January 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amendments
- Application of provisions of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes requirement that cities greater than 15,000 establish maximum towing rates. Allows cities to establish maximum towing rates, regardless of city population. Specifies county rates do not apply to vehicles towed within city boundaries if city establishes maximum towing rates. Clarifies tower is not required to obtain county license if tower tows vehicle from within city boundaries and tower is licensed by city.

BACKGROUND: The City of Portland began regulating private party impound towing (PPI) in 1988 and upgraded its practices in 2003. Other cities around the state regulate towing within city boundaries. Current Oregon law applies some restrictions and limitation on towing charges, but does not specify a maximum rate for towing or related activities.

House Bill 3159C allows cities and counties to establish maximum towing rates and to develop a regulatory system for licensing towers and for receiving complaints.