

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2023

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

SLOW AND CALM: Tougher Consequences for Street Racing Pass Oregon Senate

SB 615 will make Oregon streets safer by raising the maximum penalties, including fines and jail time, for individuals convicted of organizing street-racing

SALEM, Ore - Today the Oregon State Senate passed <u>Senate Bill 615</u>, which will empower law enforcement with new tools to deter street racing, including tougher consequences for those convicted of street racing. This change comes after multiple street racing crashes in Oregon have claimed the lives of both <u>racers</u> and <u>pedestrians</u>.

"Street racing is dangerous for racers, other road users, and pedestrians," **said the chief sponsor of the bill, Senator Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale)**. "Increasing the options available to law enforcement, such as locking up speed racers' cars, will deter this reckless and dangerous activity and save lives."

The bill increases the penalties for a person convicted of street racing to a maximum of 364 days' imprisonment, a \$6,250 fine, or both. It increases the punishment for second and subsequent convictions within a five-year period by a maximum of five years' imprisonment, \$125,000 fine, or both. It will also allow law enforcement to use criminal forfeiture to seize street racers' cars.

"Fast and Furious should be in our theaters, not on our streets," **said Senator Mark Meek (D-Gladstone)**, who carried Senate Bill 615 on the Senate floor. "This legislation will protect families and make Oregon safer for everyone."

Community safety is a top priority for Oregon Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda.

SB 615 now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

###