

PAUL L. EVANS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 16, 2015

Representative Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Barker:

I write this letter in support of House Bill 3388. This bill, as written, would provide the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training with added flexibility as well as implement a process for assisting returning veterans enter the law enforcement workforce. It might also aid rural counties and struggling communities through providing part-time personnel with professional skillsets and training experiences.

Bottom line: this bill opens the existing structure and system to a qualified, targeted “pay-to-play” alternative utilizing the GI Bill program. This bill would allow chiefs and sheriffs to send qualified personnel to DPSST for professional training: training paid for in full through federal revenues associated with the GI Bill.

DPSST would set the price, and develop necessary administrative protocols for participation of candidates that may or may not be returning to a full-time position – but to a binding, legal contract for administration, control, and oversight purposes. This bill seeks to assimilate the broader access for law enforcement candidates allowed in other states with a clear command/control expectation requirement that should yield a win/win for law enforcement agencies and law enforcement candidates alike.

I want to address the concerns submitted by DPPST: the agency has outlined a larger than anticipated fiscal that could be absorbed by the price-setting authorities. However, in conversations over the past week there have been some interesting, potentially innovative alternative strategies offered by the agency. These have been made in “good faith” and may warrant further review. Therefore, I ask for a brief period of time to discuss these alternatives with you, other members of your committee you deem interested, and the director of DPSST to provide the best possible options for final consideration.

Thank you for allowing this bill to be considered. While I believe the bill “as is” can move forward and would establish a meaningful four-year pilot and increased flexibility for meeting our statewide law enforcement challenges, I accept the alternatives offered by DPSST and will support whatever course of action you and your members believe is best in this circumstance. In the end, this conversation should advance the greater good for our state, our communities, and

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
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