		Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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DATE: April 27, 2015
TO: House Judiciary Committee
Jeff Barker, Chair
Andy Olson, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
Brent Barton
Mitch Greenlick
Wayne Krieger
Ann Lininger
Bill Post
Sherrie Sprenger

FROM: Linsay Hale, Professional Standards Division Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 239

Summary: This bill has been filed on behalf of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board). A recent revocation case involving a certified police officer and non-certified reserve officer brought to light the lack of the Board and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's (DPSST) ability to require agencies conduct a background check on sworn, non-certified reserve officers prior to employment or utilization as a reserve officer.

Though DPSST, in consultation with the Board, has the authority to set and enforce minimum standards for certified reserve officers; the certified reserve officer program has never been funded. Currently there is a population of reserve officers who are sworn, but not subjected to the same minimum employment standards as all other public safety officers in Oregon.

Effect of SB 239 on DPSST: ORS 181.640 gives the Board and DPSST authority to establish minimum standards for employment for public safety personnel, and also allows the Board and the DPSST to establish procedures to be used by law enforcement units, public or private safety agencies, or the Oregon Youth Authority to determine whether public safety personnel meet these established standards. SB 239 adds reserve officers to the statutory definition of public safety personnel, thus allowing the Board and the DPSST to set and enforce minimum standards for the employment and utilization of reserve officers.

Bill History: SB 239 received a unanimous "Do Pass" recommendation from the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 3, 2015.