



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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TO: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
Brian Boquist, Chair
Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair
Peter Courtney
Alan Olsen

FROM: Linsay Hale, Professional Standards Division Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1000-1

Background: SB 1000-1 would allow law enforcement units to sponsor reserve police officers for training as a volunteer in the Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force or a County Civil Defense Force under ORS 399.035. SB 1000-1 requires DPSST to allow these reserve officers an opportunity to attend the 16-week Basic Police Course delivered by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). The bill further requires sponsored reserve officers pay for the course using any combination of cash, any financial aid provided by the state or Department of Veteran's Affairs. Upon completion of the training, the reserve officer becomes designated as a certified reserve officer by the sponsoring law enforcement unit. Additionally, SB1000-1 requires the DPSST to increase Basic Police class sizes by no more than a 25% to accommodate training reserve officers sponsored by this bill.

Effect of SB 1000-1 on the DPSST:

Basic Police Courses: SB 1000-1 requires the DPSST to increase the class size of Basic Police Courses to accommodate the training of reserve officers who serve as volunteers in the Oregon State Police Defense Force or County Civil Defense Force by no more than 25%. Due to classroom size, training equipment and modularity of training, the current maximum class size for a Basic Police Courses is 40 students. Increasing the class size by up to 25% (up to 10 additional students) would require that the Basic Police students be split up and additional instructors hired or the modification of the DPSST training buildings to allow for 10 additional computers, desks and chairs in order to maintain a safe learning environment.

Additionally, the current 16-week curriculum is built under a modular approach, designed for no more than 40 students. The potential addition of up to ten students would require the curriculum, specifically reality based training and scenarios, be re-evaluated and re-written.

DPSST Police Certification: ORS 181.665 grants the DPSST the authority to certify individuals who meet and maintain the minimum standards for employment and training required of police officers, to include certified reserve officers¹, in this state. These minimum standards have been established by the

¹ The certified reserve officer program has never been funded. DPSST does not currently certify reserve officers.

Board on Public Safety Standards and Training and include, but are not limited to, an age requirement, citizenship, demonstration of academic proficiency and moral fitness standards. [OAR 259-008-0010] Current practice dictates that all standards be met prior to an officer being allowed entrance into any Basic Course offered by the DPSST. SB 1000-1 does not require these same requirements be met, which could potentially result in reserve officers paying for the Basic Police Course who are ultimately unable to be awarded police certification under the current laws and rules.

Additionally, SB 1000-1 grants the authority to designate reserve officers as a certified reserve officer to the officer's law enforcement unit upon completion of the Basic Police Course. DPSST would not recognize this certification unless all of the minimum standards and requirements established by law and rule have been met, which would include full time employment as a police officer with a law enforcement unit.

DPSST Business Services: SB 1000-1 requires that the training of reserve officers be paid directly to the DPSST, making the DPSST responsible for tracking, invoicing and seeking collections for these accounts. Additionally, as a recipient of educational benefits for veterans, ORS 408.050 requires the DPSST supply on a monthly basis a certified statement to the Director of Veteran's Affairs a "... report of attendance and general attitude and aptitude of each beneficiary, and the number of hours of recitation, lectures or other training scheduled, and a statement of the beneficiary's diligence and progress." The DPSST's Business Services Division is not currently structured or staffed to perform these functions.

Because each reserve officer would be responsible for paying their own way, with cash or other benefits, we would need a full time Accounting Tech 3 to handle the additional 180-190 students' accounts. Additionally, as the Veterans Administration requires, if a student drops or is unable to successfully complete the course, we are required to prorate their refund. And finally, any student who falls behind on paying, we would be required to send their account to collections and maintain these collection accounts until paid or seven years after it has become due.

Fiscal Impact: While the ultimate fiscal impact is indeterminate, the DPSST estimates a fiscal impact of just under \$300,000 to account for the hiring of additional staff to administer the program, the purchasing of additional equipment, and any required building modifications. Additionally, the DPSST estimates the addition of 10 students per class will require the DPSST to conduct up to five additional basic police classes per biennium, costing approximately \$2,400,000 (150 students x \$16,000 estimated per student) to cover the known variable expenses (lodging, meals and equipment). Finally, the DPSST would require additional expenditure limitation and projected offsetting revenue added to the budget to account for anticipated losses resulting from the use of facilities, meals and equipment (ammunition) and by reserve officers who fail to make payments as required.
