



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

4190 Aumsville Hwy SE

Salem, OR 97317-8983

503-378-2100

<http://www.dpsst.state.or.us>

DATE: March 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the House Subcommittee on Equitable Policing

FROM: Linsay Hale, Professional Standards/Interim Training Division Director

SUBJECT: DPSST Testimony: HB 2575

Summary: HB 2575 requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) establish model training for groups and agencies that interact with persons who have experienced trauma, along with the establishment of a grant program aimed at assisting law enforcement agencies and local governments ability to fund this training. The bill further requires the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) work with the DOJ to establish, through the adoption of administrative rules, best practice options for law enforcement interactions with persons who have experienced trauma, and that law enforcement agencies adopt these established best practices. Finally, the bill requires the DPSST to review and update as necessary training for all law enforcement personnel who attend a DPSST-operated training academy using the model training developed by the DOJ.¹

Background: The DPSST, in consultation with the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training, is responsible for the establishment and delivery of Basic- and Advanced-level training for Oregon's law enforcement officers.²

The DPSST currently employs a full-time Behavioral Health Coordinator, who is a licensed clinical social worker and has expertise in trauma-informed practices. This Coordinator is responsible for developing trauma-informed training specific to law enforcement professionals, and assisting with the delivery of training to officers both at the Academy,³ and regionally throughout the State.

Existing Basic-level training includes both instruction and scenario-based learning involving identifying trauma, working with trauma survivors and mitigating re-traumatization. In addition to an understanding of trauma and its effects, there are multiple segments that discuss various contexts in which trauma is likely to be a factor, including but not limited to: individuals in crisis, individuals living with trauma, crime victims generally, sexual assault victims specifically, veterans, and generational/historical trauma. Officers are trained to consider whether there is underlying trauma influencing the individuals they come in contact with, adapt their communication to attempt to meet individuals' needs, and offer applicable resources.

¹ DPSST, in consultation with the Board, approves but does not deliver the Basic-level training curriculum for corrections officers employed by the Department of Corrections (DOC). DOC corrections officers would be excluded from the training requirements found in Section 3 of this bill as currently written as they do not attend a DPSST-operated training academy.

² OAR 259-008-0005 defines "law enforcement officer" to include police officers, corrections officers, parole & probation officers, and OLCC regulatory specialists. The DPSST interprets the intent of this legislation as introduced to apply to all of Oregon's law enforcement officers.

³ Trauma-informed training is currently included in the 640-hour Basic Police Course, and the 120-hour Basic Telecommunicator (9-1-1) Course only.

The DPSST also delivers regionally training on trauma developed by the GAINS Center at the United States Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and frequently references online learning modules developed by Trauma Informed Oregon (TIS).

Impact of HB 2575 on DPSST: Section 2 of HB 2575 requires the DPSST develop best practice options for law enforcement agencies when dealing persons who have experienced trauma, and also presumably requires the DPSST ensure these established best practice options are adopted by agencies throughout the State. Operational policy development and implementation is not a role the DPSST or it's governing Board currently fills. As such, the DPSST anticipates the need for at least one additional FTE (an Operations & Policy Analyst) to effectively manage this newly created workload.

The impact of requiring the DPSST review and update its Basic-level law enforcement training curricula using a model training program developed by the DOJ (Section 3 of HB 2575) will depend on the length and content of the newly developed training. As alluded to above, the current Basic Police course continually addresses and reinforces trauma-informed practices throughout the 640-hour course. Since the other DPSST-operated law enforcement training courses do not currently address trauma-informed practices, the DOJ-developed model training would have to be added to the 240-hour Basic Corrections-Local Course, the 200-hour Basic Parole & Probation Course, and the 160-hour Basic Regulatory Specialist Course.

Integrating the newly developed training, with prescribed hours and content, could potentially increase the length of these trainings, which could create a fiscal impact on the DPSST through the need for additional meals and lodging of all Basic students, as well as providing the compensation to the instructors needed to deliver the additional training.⁴ Though the continual review and updating of existing curriculum is managed by existing DPSST staff, the integration of this newly developed model training may be disruptive to the interconnected development goals and learning principles already established in the Basic law enforcement training programs, which may require additional adjustments to other training topics/hours. The extent of these impacts are indeterminate.

*Section 1, 4, and 5 of HB 2575 are not expected to have any fiscal or operational impact on the DPSST.

⁴ The agencies that employ the officers enrolled in the DPSST-operated Basic Courses would retain the obligation to provide the officer's salary and benefits while engaged in training.
