

Testimony re HB 2572

This is a very poorly written, awkward and ambiguous bill. In my opinion it leaves much open to personal interpretation, which can be very problematic. At first glance it would appear that our elected officials are FINALLY going to do something regarding the tacit allowance of the wanton free-for-all destruction that has gutted portions of Portland the last few years. We have all watched in disbelief while law enforcement, etc. have stood by simply observing the mayhem and destruction. This has resulted in the loss of businesses and property by law abiding, tax paying members of society. So does this bill ALLOW law enforcement to do their jobs? I would think from the wording that perhaps the verbiage is a thinly veiled reference to “paramilitary” (aka terrorist) groups such as Antifa, etc. Or is it? And why now? What has changed?

Example: “Private paramilitary organization” means any group of three or more persons associating under a command structure for the purpose of functioning in public or training to function in public , as a combat, combat support, law enforcement or security services unit.”

Define command structure, and HOW that would be determined as well as WHO would determine it.

Define “patrols”, “engage in techniques”, and “drills”. Does this mean private security companies’ training? Or security guards? For those who make a living doing professional security, OR who simply wish to protect their families or themselves, practice is needed for something as simple as hand/eye coordination, for example. What if it is three friends, or three family members who get together to practice. Will they automatically be labeled as “paramilitary”? The situation could be wrongly mis- construed and/or mis-interpreted, however, and again, WHO makes that determination?

The intention is the problematic term, and focus here. This bill needs to either be re-done or amended properly to reflect what the true nature of it is. Because, unfortunately, it would appear that it is another thinly disguised attempt to strip people of their Second Amendment rights. Gail Jett, Bend, Oregon