

HB 2551 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hudson

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 02/20/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Fragala, Harbick, Hudson, McDonald, Munoz, Wright, Yunker

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires public university governing boards to ensure that the university requests and reviews background information, including information about disciplinary action, from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training before appointing a special campus security officer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to background information
- Ability for universities to make hiring decisions
- Types of security officers and employment relationships
- Transition from university system to independent governing boards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment requires a university governing board to ensure that background information is requested and reviewed, rather than requiring the board to make the request and review the information itself.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's seven public universities are given statutory authority to establish police departments and commission sworn police officers under [ORS 352.118](#) and [ORS 352.121](#). The universities may also commission special campus security officers who have probable cause arrest authority, but are not considered police officers and may not carry firearms. The designation of special campus security officer is unique to public universities and was created as part of the establishment of independent public university governing boards in [Senate Bill 270 \(2013\)](#).

Police officers, including those commissioned by a university under ORS 352.121, must be certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) under ORS 181A.490. This requirement does not apply to special campus security officers.

[Senate Bill 576 \(2019\)](#), also known as Kaylee's Law, created additional requirements for private security providers and special campus security officers employed by or contracted with institutions of higher education, including nationwide criminal records checks; distinct uniforms and designations for officers certified by DPSST and campus security officials; and psychological testing to determine fitness to serve as a special campus security officer.

House Bill 2551 would add a requirement to Kaylee's Law, codified as [ORS 181A.972](#), for public university governing boards to request and review background information, including information about disciplinary action, from DPSST before commissioning a special campus security officer. The measure does not prevent the university from commissioning or hiring a special campus security officer on the basis of the information received from DPSST.