



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

4190 Aumsville Hwy SE

Salem, OR 97317

503-378-2100

www.oregon.gov/dpsst

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To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)

Re: House Bill 2551A

DPSST has no position on House Bill 2551A. The following testimony provides background information and technical review as it would apply to implementation of the bill.

Summary: HB 2551A directs public universities to request background information from DPSST and review the background information before commissioning a special campus security officer. HB 2551A establishes the authority for DPSST to share information about a special campus security applicant with the requesting public university.

Background: DPSST operates the Oregon Public Safety Academy and certifies/licenses police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, regulatory specialists (OLCC), telecommunicators (9-1-1), emergency medical dispatchers, fire service professionals, private security providers, private investigators, and polygraph examiners in the State of Oregon. ORS Chapters 181A and 703, and OAR Chapter 259 provide the certification and licensing standards for each regulatory program, including the authority to deny, suspend, or revoke a certification or license.

Effect: DPSST administers a regulatory records check process for the background investigation requirements that apply to criminal justice public safety officer applicants (police officers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, regulatory specialists, telecommunicators, and emergency medical dispatchers). DPSST would be able to use this process to respond to a request for background information from a public university for campus security officer applicants.

To provide a public university with “background information, including information about disciplinary action,” DPSST would conduct a search of the agency’s records for complaints submitted to DPSST, reports of police officer discipline involving an economic sanction (ORS 181A.684), and any DPSST professional standards cases related to denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or certification issued by DPSST, including cases that result in closure with no action. The search would include all of DPSST’s regulatory disciplines: criminal justice, fire, private security, private investigator, and polygraph examiner. DPSST would complete a search of the IADLEST (International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training) National Decertification Index. DPSST would also be able to provide a copy of the applicant’s public safety and private security employment history based on the records available in the agency’s databases.

DPSST would be able to provide the public university with a response that identifies what information was located and with a copy of DPSST's records. DPSST professional standards case records may include records obtained from the employing agency related to the investigation of the conduct that resulted in a DPSST review of the individual's license or certification. However, it should be noted that DPSST does not possess any individual's complete employment personnel records which may include information such as employment background investigations, complaints made to the employing agency, or complete discipline history.

DPSST estimates that implementation of HB 2551A would have a minimal fiscal impact on the agency. The bill would result in an increased workload for work that the agency already performs for other constituents. However, the true increase can't be estimated at this time. The increase will depend on how many special campus security officers a public university hires on an average basis.

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Questions or requests for additional information may be directed to Jennifer Howald, DPSST Legislative Coordinator, at Jennifer.howald@dpsst.oregon.gov.