

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
Nays:	Cameron
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides that all public safety officers are covered by the provisions of ORS 236.350, where previously only police officers were covered. Creates detailed process and safeguards for a public safety officer who is under investigation. Modifies current procedure for an officer to request and receive a copy of personnel records. Creates procedures for placing, reviewing and challenging an adverse comment in a public safety officer's personnel file. Provides that investigations into officer misconduct must be completed within six months of the allegation. Allows for an investigation to be extended to a maximum of 12 months if the employer provides the officer with written notice and an explanation for the delay.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Time period for investigation
- Effect on current collective bargaining agreements
- Uniformity throughout the state
- Minimum standards

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows for an investigation to be extended to a maximum of 12 months if the employer provides the officer with written notice and an explanation for the delay.

BACKGROUND: The issues addressed in HB 2713A, otherwise known as public safety officer bill of rights, were initially pursued in the 1970s. The bill passed but was vetoed by the governor. Collective bargaining gained force in the years following and these issues were largely dealt with through the various police unions. The purpose of bringing the bill back is to create a state-wide standard for dealing with investigations involving public safety officers. While larger cities and counties have effectively implemented similar standards within their own agencies via unions, there are jurisdictions throughout the state that are too small and either do not have unions or have unions with numbers too small to negotiate effectively through collective bargaining. Similar statutes have been implemented in states throughout the country, most notably California. This measure closely mirrors the California statute.