

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure (Printed B-Eng.)
Vote: 3 - 2 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, Dingfelder, Prozanski
Nays: Boquist, Whitsett
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 5/22, 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires employers to adopt written procedures for investigating public safety officers. Adds parole officers and corrections officers to police officers in the definition of public safety officers. 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. Clarifies that collective bargaining agreements control if provide for similar protections. Allows for informal questions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Compensation for interview
- Informal conversations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that this measure does not affect employees who have similar protections under collective bargaining agreements. Allows for preliminary questions that do not trigger the protections of investigations.

BACKGROUND: HB 2713B, is also known as the public safety officer bill of rights. The purpose 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 smaller jurisdictions throughout the state that 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.