

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred
to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows Oregon Health Science University (OHSU) to commission special campus security officers that will be known as university police. Grants all power and authority of peace officers and police officers. Requires training by Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) at the expense of OHSU. Prohibits university police from carrying firearms and declares they are not considered police officers for purposes of retirement, benefits or striking. Declares the university is a criminal justice agency and a law enforcement unit.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Response time of armed police
- Contract with local law enforcement agency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows OHSU to commission special campus security officers that will be known as university police. Grants all power and authority of peace officers and police officers. Requires training by DPSST at the expense of OHSU. Prohibits university police from carrying firearms and declares they are not considered police officers for purposes of the Public Employee Retirement System, ORS 238.005, the Public Employee Benefit Board 243.005, or striking by emergency personnel, ORS 243.736. Declares the university is a criminal justice agency and a law enforcement unit.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) currently has campus security officers who have the ability to arrest individuals without warrant. They are also trained and certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. (DPSST). SB 658A broadens the authority and grants all the powers and authority of peace officers and police officers of the state with the exception of the ability to carry firearms. University officers will have comprehensive training to respond to emergencies, investigating crimes, submitting requests for warrants to judges and preparing cases for prosecutors.

SB 658A is a result of the OHSU Task Force that was convened to assess the readiness of OHSU to an “active shooter” incident on campus like that of Virginia Tech.