FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Allows State Board of Higher Education to authorize university under board control to establish police department.

Measure: SB 405 - A

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon University System, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Judicial Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure allows the State Board of Higher Education to authorize a university to establish a police department and commission one or more employees as police officers and the police officers established by this measure have all of the authority and immunity of a peace officer or police officer of the state. The measure allows the board or a university may enter into an agreement with a municipal corporation or any department, agency or political subdivision of the state for mutual aid by their respective police officers. The measure allows for fines and forfeitures resulting from prosecutions to be credited to the university. The measure includes police officers of a university as public safety officers for purposes of determining benefits under the Public Employees Retirement System. The measure is effective on passage with an operative date of January 1, 2012.

Currently, universities may commission special campus security officers. Oregon University System (OUS) states that only the University of Oregon plans to employ university police officers and that the other universities intend to continue the use of special campus security or current contracts with the Oregon State Police. OUS notes that all costs of implementation and maintenance of a police force are incurred by the individual institutions.

University of Oregon intends to transition some of the current special campus security officers to police officers and some to a lower salary range security officer position through a six-year transition plan that is designed to mitigate the costs of hiring new police officers. The university intends to shift some of the current public safety supervisory positions designated as Officers of Administration positions into police officer positions as well, with no salary adjustments. OUS anticipates additional costs of \$66,775 above the current budget allocation for special campus security positions.

The Judicial Department anticipates an increase in felony, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, and violation cases but assumes the impact will be minimal.

There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) as a result of this measure unless the bill results in a significant number of new officers requiring basic training. DPSST assumes that any OUS officers would attend the standard 16-week Basic Police Course which is paid with Criminal Fines and Assessment (CFAA) resources. DPSST notes that the number of Basic Police Courses offered have been reduced and that any additional officers attending training could

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increase backlogs of officers waiting to attend training from other law enforcement agencies across the state.						