



# OREGON AFSCME

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SB 1528

Chair Prozanski and Vice Chair Kruse, and Committee Members

Good afternoon, for the record, my name is David Green. I have worked as a Liquor Inspector for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for approximately 13 years. I am here as a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Before working for OLCC, I practiced law in Portland, Oregon for about six years. I am still an active member of the Oregon State Bar.

I am here to testify in support of SB 1528, because this bill will improve working conditions for OLCC employees and make a positive difference for the people of the State of Oregon.

This bill does this by impacting six areas:

1. It clarifies the enforcement authority of OLCC Inspectors and ensures that they have the ability to perform their jobs at licensed businesses
2. It codifies assault protections for employees while performing their job.
3. It reduces liability for OLCC and the State of Oregon.
4. It implements a standards certification program for public employees who enforce liquor law
5. It increases the professionalism and accountability of OLCC staff
6. Protects current career employees by giving them a onetime "grandfathering" for some difficult physical fitness standards thereby complying with ADA regulations and federal laws.

In doing this, there are two items that are important to keep in mind:

1. This bill does not expand OLCC Inspectors' enforcement authority
2. The bill does not increase financial compensation nor does it change or enhance retirement benefits for Inspectors.

The bill implements these changes in the following ways:

Clarity concerning Inspectors' enforcement authority comes in the changes to ORS 471.775. The current version of that statute gives Inspectors and Investigators "all the authority given by statute to peace officers of this state." This bill changes that to give Inspectors the authority to enforce law that is related to "alcoholic liquor."

Protections for employees and liability reduction for the State of Oregon come from the inclusion of OLCC and Inspectors in the criminal code -- specifically ORS 161 and ORS 181. By including Inspectors in ORS Chapter 161, Inspectors will be protected when taking authorized and appropriate action in making arrests and from others who might choose to unlawfully resist an Inspectors' lawful action. Further, by including OLCC and Inspectors in ORS 181, Inspectors will be allowed to perform their duties at licensed businesses knowing that

they have the authority to complete those lawful duties without fearing that they may be told to leave before they have completed their job.

The clarity and protections come with a requirement that it be done with professionalism and accountability.

The bill requires the implementation of a certification program for OLCC Inspectors. By this spring, almost 100% of current OLCC Inspectors will have completed an approved curriculum at DPSST. OLCC's and its Inspectors have committed to continue that training, and to adhere to the standards and expectations that come with DPSST certification. By doing so, Inspectors' knowledge, skill and ethics will be standardized and held to account by the agency whose function is to ensure that laws are being enforced in a way that serves the people of Oregon.

I am happy to try and answer any questions the Committee may have.

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