



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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**DATE:** April 8, 2013

**TO:** House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Chris Harker, Vice-Chair  
John Huffman, Vice-Chair  
Joe Gallegos  
Vic Gilliam  
Chris Gorsek  
Mitch Greenlick  
Mark Johnson  
Gene Whisnant

**FROM:** Marilyn Lorange, Legislative Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 3114

**Summary:** The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is responsible for establishing minimum standards for employment, training, and certification of public safety personnel in Oregon, including police officers. House Bill 3114 modifies the current authority of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) to establish a police department and authorizes Oregon's community colleges to establish police departments. In doing so, the bill makes changes to the relevant definitions within DPSST's enabling statutes.

### **Background:**

- In general, DPSST's enabling statutes bring a person into DPSST jurisdiction when they become employed in a certified position as a public safety officer, as defined in ORS 181.610.
- Currently, neither OHSU nor community colleges are included in DPSST definitions as law enforcement units, and their public safety personnel are not included in DPSST definitions as police officers. However, 2009 legislative changes to ORS 353.050 allow us to provide basic training and certify OHSU police officers.
- The same legislative changes to ORS 353.050 give OHSU police the authority of peace officers and police officers, but prohibit them from carrying firearms while on duty.
- Currently, OHSU police officers meet the same standards, receive the same training, and are certified in the same manner as any other Oregon police officer.
- Both the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training and its Police Policy Committee have noted their concern that there is a group of certified police officers in the state that do not have the same tools that their counterparts have available to them as they carry out their duties.
- Security personnel employed by community colleges are not considered public safety personnel, but are covered within the enabling statutes governing private security providers.



**Effect of HB 3114 on DPSST:** Sections 2 and 4 of HB 3114 authorize OHSU and community colleges to establish police departments and employ police officers. Sections 35 and 36 of the bill add OHSU's and community colleges' police departments and police officers to DPSST's definitions of law enforcement unit and police officers. The effects of these changes on DPSST are different for OHSU than they are for community colleges:

OHSU:

- HB 3114 does not make any functional changes to DPSST's current relationship with OHSU. DPSST has worked closely with OHSU since the 2009 legislative session, and their police officers already comply with DPSST standards and receive DPSST training.
- The effect of HB 3114 with regard to OHSU is to treat them within DPSST's enabling statutes just as any other law enforcement unit, rather than having their relationship with DPSST codified outside of our statutes.
- The provision requiring OHSU to reimburse DPSST for the cost of their basic training (which is not a requirement for other city, county, and state law enforcement units) is repealed in HB 3114.

Community Colleges:

- The effect of HB 3114 with regard to community colleges is to authorize the establishment of new police departments and police officers subject to DPSST jurisdiction.
- DPSST would work closely with any community colleges seeking to establish police departments, to educate them with regard to the ongoing DPSST standards that the departments and the officers would be required to meet.
- All of these new police officers would require basic training in DPSST's 16-week Basic Police Course, unless they had been previously trained and recently employed as police officers.
- It is not possible to predict the specific effect on the number of DPSST Basic Police classes that would be required without knowing how many colleges would establish departments, over what period of time, and how many officers they would employ.