



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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**DATE:** April 10, 2013

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee  
Jeff Barker, Chair  
Chris Garrett, Vice-Chair  
Wayne Krieger, Vice-Chair  
Brent Barton  
Kevin Cameron  
Wally Hicks  
Andy Olson  
Carolyn Tomei  
Jennifer Williamson

**FROM:** Linsay Hale, Rules Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 565

**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. Senate Bill 565 modifies the current authority of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) to establish a police department. 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, OHSU is not included in DPSST definitions as a law enforcement unit, and their public safety personnel are not included in DPSST definition of a police officer. 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.

**Effect of SB 565 on DPSST:** SB 565 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. Additionally, 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 SB 565.

**Bill History:** SB 565 received a unanimous "Do Pass" recommendation from the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 11, 2013. The Senate approved SB 565 on March 21, 2013 in a unanimous vote by all attending.