
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2418

In writing before the Senate General Government Committee / May 15, 2013

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Chair Shields and members of the Committee:

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association is comprised of Oregon's 36 elected county sheriffs. Sheriffs take seriously their charge to be "conservators of the peace." Their role in public safety is broad, including routine patrol, investigating crime, search and rescue, marine patrol, jails, community corrections, court security, civil services and the issuance of concealed handgun licenses.

HB 2418-A creates a new "bright line" threshold in occupations prohibited from striking by requiring an employee to have the "authority to impose economic discipline" in order to meet the definition of a "supervisory employee" who is exempt from being part of a bargaining unit. Sheriffs routinely provide supervisory employees with the authority to impose sanctions other than economic discipline. Sheriffs believe that using only a single type of sanction -- economic discipline -- in defining a supervisory employee is far too restrictive and does not work in the current command structure of most, if not all, Sheriffs offices.

The new standard will force some Sheriffs to shift a historically successful command structure to comply with the new standard. Complying with this bill could be very costly to Sheriffs regardless of the size of the office.

The practical problem HB 2418-A will create is mixing traditionally recognized supervisory employees into a bargaining unit where they could potentially supervise someone who also holds a leadership position in the union which could create significant issues regarding lines of authority and a clear command structure.

Oregon Sheriffs strongly oppose House Bill 2418-A and ask the committee to take no further action on the bill and allow it to remain in the committee until Sine Die. Thank you.

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

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