
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4068

House Judiciary Committee / February 5, 2014

Darrell W. Fuller / 971-388-1786 / fuller_darrell@yahoo.com



Chair Barker 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.

House Bill 4068 was introduced at the request of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association.

This bill is not really about marijuana. This bill is not really about guns. This bill is about fairness and treating everyone equally under the law.

Under existing Oregon law, a **single** conviction of possession of a small amount of marijuana in Oregon more than five years ago is not grounds to deny or revoke a CHL. However, a **single** conviction of possessing an equivalent amount in any other state requires a Sheriff to deny a CHL to an otherwise qualified applicant. The reason is pretty simple: current Oregon law is tied to the Oregon statute which assumes the decriminalization of marijuana. However, since marijuana is not decriminalized in other states, a **single** possession conviction in a different state is disqualifying because it is a criminal act.

House Bill 4068 modifies the language so that regardless of the state of the conviction, a **single** conviction of possessing a small amount of marijuana, which is at least five years old, will not be a barrier to possessing an Oregon CHL.

Sheriffs want across-the-board consistency with regard to how marijuana convictions impact a person's right to obtain or maintain a CHL. Therefore, the bill creates parity by not using a **single** minor marijuana conviction -- regardless of the state of conviction -- as a disqualifier for a CHL.

Oregon Sheriffs are both strong defenders of Second Amendments rights and vigilant protectors of the peace. House Bill 4068 keeps faith with both those solemn responsibilities. We urge the committee to give the bill a "do pass" recommendation to the full House of Representatives. Thank you.

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303 (503) 364-4204 info@oregonsheriffs.org www.oregonsheriffs.org