
OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 4011

In writing before the House Business & Labor Committee / February 10, 2014

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



Chair Doherty and members of the House Business & Labor Committee:

My apologies for not appearing in person to discuss this bill. A trip planned quite a while ago to visit colleges with my son collided with bad weather this weekend and I find myself stuck in San Francisco awaiting a flight that simply won't come soon enough.

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.

Oregon Sheriffs oppose House Bill 4011 as it creates an unneeded loophole for a segment of the "resale" industry. While pawn shops differ from second hand retailers in that they loan money on chattel in addition to outright purchasing personal property, the two businesses are similar in that they are both targets for the unscrupulous who are trying to sell stolen property. Whether an item is sold or pawned, the individual obtains cash for a stolen item. And whether a business is a pawn shop, a second-hand store, or both, requiring items made of precious metals to be photographed is not asking too much.

In an effort to both reduce the ease and value of selling stolen goods, the public safety community has advocated for rules for purchasing second-hand merchandise. The purpose of these rules, including taking photographs of items, is to help ensure stolen property is returned to its rightful owners while helping pawn shops and second-hand stores to refuse to purchase "hot" property. Taking photographs of items made of precious metals is not an overly burdensome requirement and it should not be removed from statute.

In sum, Oregon Sheriffs do not believe passing HB4011 will make our communities safer or Oregon safer. Oregon Sheriffs urge the House Business and Labor to keep the bill in committee until adjournment. Thank you for considering our input.

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

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