



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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DATE: March 26, 2015

TO: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Chair Representative John Lively  
Vice-Chair Representative Deborah Boone  
Vice-Chair Representative Sal Esquivel  
Representative Paul Evans  
Representative John Huffman  
Representative Julie Parrish  
Representative Carla Piluso

FROM: Eriks Gabliks, Director

SUBJECT: House Bill 3393

**Background:** House Bill 3393 creates a task force to study the possible creation of a centralized state department of public safety. The task force would include members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly, representatives of a city and county with a public safety answering point (PSAP), as well as representatives of various state agencies including the Oregon State Police, Oregon Military Department, Office of State Fire Marshal, Office of Emergency Management, and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).

**Effect of HB 3393 on DPSST:** DPSST is honored to be considered to staff and coordinate the work of this task force. Unfortunately budget reductions over the past biennia have resulted in a significant reduction in staff at DPSST. As a result, additional assistance would be needed to accomplish this significant task.

The reason for this additional assistance is four-fold:

- First, the various state agencies involved in the state's public safety system are complex with thousands of employees serving Oregonians 24 hours a day from worksites strategically located around the state.
- Second, each of these state public safety agencies maintains critical relationships with each city, county and tribal government in the state, in addition to various special districts and dozens of federal counterparts.
- Third, each of the state's public safety agencies have complex budget structures that include general fund, other funds (9-1-1 Telephone Tax, Fire Insurance Premium Tax, Criminal Fines Assessment, etc.), as well as federal funds from various agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Defense (DOD),

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Justice (DOJ), and others.

- Finally, the statutes, rules and federal regulations which govern the day-to-day and emergency operations for the state public safety partners are complex and varied.

Each of the above elements would require extensive review in order to develop a proposal for the Oregon Legislative Assembly to consider regarding the creation of a centralized state department of public safety.

DPSST looks forward to working with the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee should this legislation move forward.