

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 3388**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Authorizes reserve officers sponsored by law enforcement unit to pay for training as police with cash and G.I. Bill education benefits.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure allows law enforcement units to sponsor a reserve officer for training as a police officer, and allows the reserve officer to pay for training with cash or other education benefits available to the individual. The measure directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to increase class sizes as necessary, up to 25%, to train sponsored reserve officers. DPSST is required to conduct a study of the impact the measure on law enforcement budgets, recruitment of reserve officers, and maintenance of public safety. DPSST must submit a report to an interim Legislative committee no later than September 15, 2020.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of reserve officers who may qualify and participate in police officer training is unknown. DPSST notes that current class sizes are set at a maximum of 40 students due to facility constraints and modularity of the training. Increasing the class sizes, as necessary, by up to 10 individuals will require changes to existing class structure, modification to the current facilities, or addition of more classes, which would require additional instructors. Currently, DPSST anticipates 13 Basic Police Classes of 40 students in the 2015-17 biennium.

DPSST notes that the estimated cost for an individual to attend the Basic Police Class is approximately \$15,000 for lodging, meals and ammunition. Any additional reserve officers paying for the training with cash or other education benefits will require adjustments to DPSST's expenditure limitation and additional tracking and invoicing responsibilities to the Department. Currently, the costs of criminal justice classes are covered by Criminal Fine Account revenues allocated to the Department. DPSST assumes that if it was now responsible to receive and process payments from students, as well as conduct invoicing and bill collection, a full-time Accounting Tech 3 position would be necessary to handle these additional duties. The estimated cost for this position is \$116,199 Other Funds.

Additionally, DPSST notes that it is not currently an accredited institution that meets Veteran's Administration requirements. In order to become accredited and work with reserve officers to utilize their available benefits, DPSST anticipates needing a dedicated Veterans Services Officer position at an estimated cost of \$133,346 Other Funds. Total cost to DPSST for the two positions is approximately \$291,545 Other Funds per biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the addition of students beyond the projected amounts included in the 2015-2017 budget passed by the Legislature will require adjustments to the Department's expenditure limitation. Depending on the number of students beyond the maximum class limit, and how DPSST is able to incorporate them, the Department may need to return to the legislature for additional resources.