

## **BEHAVIORAL FORENSICS & INVESTIGATIONS, PLLC**

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Hon. Lee Beyer, Chairman Senate Business & Transportation Committee 900 Court St. NE, S-419 Salem, Oregon 97301

May 11, 2015

TO: Senate Business & Transportation Committee Senator Lee Beyer, Chairman Senator Rod Monroe Senator Chuck Riley Senator Chuck Thomsen Senator Fred Girod

FROM: Ronald J. Miller

RE: HB3487

Dear Chairman Beyer and Committee Members:

As a member of and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators, Inc., I wish to advise you and the Oregon Legislature of our organization's enthusiastic support for this bill. We have recognized the need for returning the requirement of licensed investigators to display their name and license number on their various promotional documents for several years.

This is a significant consumer protection issue as there are constantly persons of unknown criminal history backgrounds, training, and knowledge representing themselves as private investigators and soliciting services to the public. Social media and online advertising such as Craigslist are frequent areas of this abuse.

Licensing as a Private Investigator is required by ORS 703.405.

As an organization, we are active in reporting unlicensed investigators as is the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. This bill will make that process easier and protect the public. This bill will also inform the consumer that they are hiring a licensed, bonded and/or insured investigator who has met the statutory

requirements to practice as such. Licensed investigators are accountable to the public through the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

The requirement to display name and license number on all advertisements was an original requirement under the Oregon Board of Investigators when licensing was originally established in 1998. For some unknown reason, this requirement was dropped when the statutes were re-written when DPSST assumed responsibility of the licensing program. Research of the legislative history has failed to reveal a reason for this omission in the current statute.

OALI represents approximately 250 investigators in the State and we are the primary professional organization for investigators in the State of Oregon.

Other than minor changes to some investigators' stationary, business cards and advertisements, there is no anticipated significant financial impact to the industry or the State.

Thank you for your work on this seemingly minor but important piece of legislation.

We request that you pass this bill through the Committee as submitted.

Sincerely,

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Ronald J. Miller, MS PSID 33683 Board Member, Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators Oregon State Bar Appointee Member, DPSST Private Security and Investigators Policy Committee