

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Judiciary

MEASURE: SB 239
CARRIER: Sen. Prozanski

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/03/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/03

Senate

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Thatcher, Prozanski, Kruse

Prepared By: Laura Handzel, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Includes reserve officers in definitions of “public safety personnel” and “public safety officer.” Adds reserve officers to definition of “commissioned.” Adds reserve officers to minimum age requirement for employment. Removes reserve officers from minimum standards and training exemption. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Certified officer training currently not funded
- Availability and need for oversight, checks and balances
- Applicability just to Department of Public Safety Standards & Training; separate ORS governs commissioned officers
- Authority to set minimum standards as done for commissioned officers
- Need for threshold minimum standards
- Retroactivity to be determined

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Association of Reserve Peace Officers, there are an estimated 1,300 reserve officers currently working in the state, many of whom serve on a volunteer basis and may serve in rural areas. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training reports that reserve officers undergo strenuous training, using the same standards as for full-time officers.

Current Oregon law includes reference to “certified reserve officers,” but does not include “reserve officers.” There is not, however, a formal certification process for reserve officers at this time. As such, reserve officers are omitted from some ORS sections.

Senate Bill 239 explicitly adds “reserve officer” to the definitions of “public safety personnel” and “public safety officer” so that the ORS language includes reference to both “certified reserve officers” and “reserve officers.” Additionally, Senate Bill 239 adds reserve officers to the definition of “commissioned” as well as the minimum employment age requirement of twenty-one years of age. Finally, Senate Bill 239 removes reserve officers from the current statutory exemption for minimum standards and minimum training.