

HB 2846 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows law enforcement unit to sponsor reserve officer for training as police officer. Allows reserve officer to pay for training with cash and G.I. Bill education benefits. Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to increase class size by up to 25 percent as necessary to train these officers. Requires reserve officer to remain with sponsoring law enforcement unit for three years following training. Requires DPSST to study measure's impact. Sunsets this program on January 2, 2024.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is not required to provide training for reserve officers. A reserve officer is a person who is employed less than full-time or as a volunteer peace officer, carries a firearm and enforces criminal and traffic laws. House Bill 2846 allows a law enforcement unit to sponsor a reserve officer for training as a police officer. It allows for the reserve officer to use cash and G.I. Bill education benefits to pay for the cost of this training. It directs DPSST to increase class size by up to 25 percent as necessary to train these reserve officers. Reserve officers who complete this training will be designated as certified reserve officers and must remain with the sponsoring law enforcement agency for three years following completion of training. If a certified reserve officer does not comply with this requirement without good cause, the reserve officer's certification may be suspended or revoked. DPSST is also directed to begin a study on the impact of this measure in four years. DPSST must submit a report based on this study by September 15, 2022. HB 2846 allows the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to provide financial aid for this training and requires ODVA to provide veterans with assistance in obtaining reimbursement for the cost of this training, upon request. Finally, HB 2846 sunsets on January 2, 2024.