

**SB 1000 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Boquist

**Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness**

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**Action Date:** 04/18/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 4-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes creation of volunteer civil defense force under Department of State Police (DPS) called Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force. Describes its function. Requires its volunteers, and volunteers with County Civil Defense Forces, to possess certain qualifications. Provides further insulation from tort liability. Distinguishes Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force from Oregon State Defense Force, and renames Oregon State Defense Force, Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Permissive nature of authorization for defense force under Department of State Police
- Current suspension of defense force authorized under Oregon Military Department
- Communications and other services provided by defense force personnel
- Concerns of defense force personnel

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Reinforces voluntary nature of participation in defense force by refining language that insulates state/public bodies from tort liability.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law currently provides for the existence of volunteer, civilian defense forces that are distinct from, but supplement the activities of professional first responders and the Armed Forces, at both the state and local levels. At the local level, county volunteer forces answer to county Sheriffs, and at the state level, the Oregon State Defense Force answers to the Adjutant General of the Oregon Military Department; however, the Oregon State Defense Force has been suspended for some time.

Senate Bill 1000-A authorizes the Department of State Police to form the Oregon State Police Civil Defense Force.