

LC 78 (6/18/20) STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to establish a statewide database of police officer discipline records. Requires DPSST to regularly publish information related to the suspension or revocation of an officer's certification, including the officer's name, place of employment, the facts underlying the disciplinary proceeding, and the outcome of the proceeding. Prohibits disclosure of the officer's name if the discipline is currently under appeal. Directs DPSST to make annually report the number of founded and unfounded complaints against police officer to the Legislative Assembly, categorized by law enforcement agency. Provides that database requirements would not apply to the extent they would conflict with or impair a collective bargaining agreement entered into before the 2020 special session.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

There is currently no comprehensive, centralized database of law enforcement officer discipline records. Furthermore, under ORS 181A.830, agencies are prohibited from disclosing information related to an investigation of a public safety employee resulting in no discipline unless the public interest requires disclosure, the employee consents to the disclosure, the disclosure is necessary for an investigation by DPSST or other body, or when nondisclosure would adversely affect the public's confidence in the agency. The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training does maintain the online Oregon Criminal Justice Information Records Inquiry System (CJ IRIS) which contains a database of Oregon law enforcement employees. The database is publicly accessible and includes information on the employee's work history, education, training, and certifications, including whether a certification has been suspended or revoked.

LC 78 requires DPSST to establish and regularly publish a statewide database of officer disciplinary records as well as make an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on the number of complaints against officers, categorized by agency.