

LC 743 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Interim Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform Special Session of 2020

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires peace officer in uniform to prominently display their first initial and last name, badge or other identifying number, and information sufficient to identify the officer’s employer on front and back of uniform. Excludes tribal police from requirements. States conditions under which uniform lettering must be legible. Prohibits lettering from being covered or obstructed. Directs peace officer performing official duties to provide their name and badge number to a member of the public upon request unless engaged in undercover operations. Directs law enforcement agencies to assist in the identification of an officer when requested by member of the public and provide response within two weeks from request. Requires law enforcement agencies to consider all genders and body types when changing uniforms or uniform policy. Directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to assign an identifying number to each police officer that DPSST certifies. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law does not set standards for peace officer uniforms or identification requirements. Instead, decisions regarding uniforms, vehicle designs, and identification policies are left to individual agencies. Additionally, there is no statutory requirement that the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) issue an identifying number to each officer, though DPSST does issue such number as per agency rule.

Legislative Concept 743 provides standardized identification requirements for peace officers.