

## LECC TESTIMONY SB 685: MARCH 19, 2019

*Submitted by:*

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Chair Prozanski, Members of the committee,

My name is Brian Renauer and I am the lead staff to the Law Enforcement Contact Policy and Data Review Committee, known as the LECC.

Senate Bill 685 proposes two simple legislative changes to the existing Oregon Statutes that authorize the governor-appointed LECC committee and details its function – ORS 131.906, 131.908, 131.920, 131.925.

The **first change is a name change**. The committee proposed this change for the following reasons:

- 1) To the average person in the public, the title, "*Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee*" does not provide an obvious meaning for what this committee is authorized to do. In fact, it sounds very bureaucratic and even "policy wonkish".
- 2) The proposed new name, "***Commission on Equity in Policing***" provides a much clearer expression of the foundational mission of the original LECC statute – "*ensure that law enforcement agencies perform their missions without inequitable or unlawful discrimination.*"
- 3) One of new missions of the LECC established under the End Profiling Act passed in the 2015 legislation is receive complaints of profiling directly from the public. Knowing that one's complaint is being heard by the Commission on Equity in Policing, we think would help increase public engagement and interest in the committee and increase public understanding of our overall mission.
- 4) We are also launching a new website entitled "equityinpolicing.com", which we feel will provide more visibility to the program. This is a stand-alone website and not buried within an agency website.

The **second change is moving the due date of our annual report** to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees from December 1 to June 1.

- 5) In addition to receiving complaints from the public, Oregon law enforcement must also send us a certification of their complaints received each year. This process helps to ensure compliance with the End Profiling Act and helps in our goal of better understanding the nature and investigation of profiling incidents. Recent changes to the legislation set a due date of January 31 for law enforcement to send their compliance certification forms to the LECC, which is past our Dec 1 annual report due date. Hence, June 1 would allow the staff and committee enough time the review the complaints to include in our annual report.