



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

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DATE: March 19, 2019

TO: Chair Representative Jennifer Williamson
Vice-Chair Representative Chris Gorsek
Vice-Chair Representative Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Jeff Barker
Representative Janelle Bynum
Representative Mitch Greenlick
Representative Rick Lewis
Representative Mike McLane
Representative Carla Piluso
Representative Karin Power
Representative Duane Stark

FROM: Eriks Gabliks, Director

SUBJECT: House Bill 3338

Summary: HB 3338 prohibits police officers commissioned by public university from carrying firearms as police officers outside of police headquarters if public university is located in city with population exceeding 150,000

Overview: In 2009 and 2010, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) was engaged in numerous meetings with the Oregon University System and leaders of the University of Oregon and Portland State University to discuss law enforcement needs of university campuses. The meetings were not to criticize the law enforcement agencies who served these jurisdictions but that university campuses were unique and in essence a “city within a city” with tens of thousands of students, faculty, staff, and guests at each on a daily basis.

These meetings, and work by universities with the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriff’s Association, and Oregon Council of Police Associations, resulted in the introduction of Senate Bill 405 during the 2011 Legislative Session.

SB 405 was carefully crafted legislation which enabled Oregon’s public universities that wanted to establish a police department to create sworn police agencies on their campuses.

SB 405 passed which led to the creation of the University of Oregon Police Department and a few years later the Portland State University Police Department.

Both the University of Oregon and Portland State University have a blended service delivery model that includes certified police officers working alongside campus security officers.

Since both police departments were formed, DPSST has enjoyed a positive relationship with both organizations and their respective police chiefs. Both organizations are fully engaged in the DPSST process and meet all DPSST standards. Both organizations have been active in DPSST work groups to update standards. Both organizations have also been active in regional and statewide law enforcement events and organizations.

Police officers from both organizations attend the complete 16-week Basic Police Course alongside officers from other city, county, state and tribal law enforcement agencies. Police officers from both agencies are employed, trained and certified against the same standards as any other law enforcement officer in the state. University police officers in Oregon are the same as any other police officer except that they are employed by a state university.

DPSST enjoys working with more than 150 law enforcement agencies, and more than 5,000 full-time law enforcement professionals in our state who protect our residents and natural resources. The University of Oregon Police Department and the Portland State University Police Department are included in this list.
