House Bill 2549

Sponsored by Representative EVANS (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Authorizes reserve officers sponsored by law enforcement unit to pay for training as police with cash and G.I. Bill education benefits. Requires Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to increase training class sizes by up to 25 percent as necessary to train sponsored reserve officers. Requires reserve officer to remain with law enforcement unit for at least three years after certification and allows Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to suspend or revoke certification if reserve officer fails to comply without good cause.

Requires Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to conduct study of impact of measure on state and local public safety budgets, recruitment of officers and maintenance of public safety and to submit report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to public safety.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to training of police officers; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 181A.640 and 408.020.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1)(a) A law enforcement unit may sponsor a reserve officer of the law enforcement unit under this section for training as a police officer under ORS 181A.355 to 181A.670.

(b)(A) Notwithstanding ORS 181A.425, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training shall increase class sizes as necessary to train reserve officers sponsored under this section.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, class sizes may not be increased by an amount greater than 25 percent of class sizes as of the effective date of this 2019 Act.

(2)(a) A reserve officer sponsored under this section may pay for the costs of courses required for training as a police officer with, in any combination, cash and any state financial aid as provided in ORS 408.010 to 408.090 to which the reserve officer is entitled.

(b) Upon request, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall provide assistance to reserve officers in obtaining reimbursement for the costs of courses required for training under this section.

(3) When a reserve officer sponsored under this section has completed the courses required for training as a police officer, the reserve officer:

(a) Shall be designated by the reserve officer's law enforcement unit as a certified reserve officer; and

(b) May be employed by any law enforcement unit in this state as a police officer.

(4)(a) A reserve officer sponsored under this section who has completed the courses required for certification as a police officer must remain with a law enforcement agency as a certified reserve officer or a police officer for at least three years after the reserve officer's date of certification.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(b) The certification of a reserve officer who does not comply with paragraph (a) of this
subsection may be suspended or revoked pursuant to ORS 181A.630, 181A.640 and 181A.650 if
the reserve officer fails to comply without good cause, as defined by the Department of
Public Safety Standards and Training by rule.

SECTION 2. (1) Beginning on the date that is four years after the effective date of this
2019 Act, the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training shall conduct a study of
the impact of this 2019 Act on:
(a) The budgets of law enforcement units and the department;
(b) The recruitment of reserve officers, certified reserve officers and police officers; and
(c) The maintenance of public safety.
(2) The department shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and
may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative
Assembly related to public safety no later than September 15, 2024.

SECTION 3. ORS 181A.640 is amended to read:
181A.640. (1) The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training may deny the application
for training, or deny, suspend or revoke the certification, of any public safety officer or instructor,
except a youth correction officer or fire service professional, after written notice and hearing consis-
tent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a finding that:
(a) The public safety officer or instructor falsified any information submitted on the application
for certification or on any documents submitted to the Board on Public Safety Standards and
Training or the department.
(b) The public safety officer or instructor has been convicted of a crime or violation in this state
or any other jurisdiction.
(c) The public safety officer or instructor does not meet the applicable minimum standards,
minimum training or the terms and conditions established under ORS 181A.410 (1)(a) to (d).
(d) The public safety officer failed to comply with ORS 181A.790 (3)(b) or section 1 (4)(a) of this
2019 Act.
(2) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the certification of a fire service professional,
after written notice and hearing consistent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a
finding that the fire service professional has been convicted in this state of a crime listed in ORS
137.700 or in any other jurisdiction of a crime that, if committed in this state, would constitute a
crime listed in ORS 137.700.
(3) The department may deny, suspend or revoke the certification of any fire service professional
after written notice and hearing consistent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a
finding:
(a) That the fire service professional falsified any information submitted on the application for
certification or on any documents submitted to the board or the department; or
(b) Consistent with ORS 670.280, that the fire service professional is not fit to receive or hold
the certification as a result of conviction of a crime in this state, or in any other jurisdiction, other
than a crime described in subsection (2) of this section.
(4) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the certification of any public safety officer
or instructor, except a youth correction officer, after written notice and hearing consistent with the
provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a finding that the public safety officer or instructor has
been discharged for cause from employment as a public safety officer.
(5) The department, in consultation with the board, shall adopt rules specifying those crimes and
violations for which a conviction requires the denial, suspension or revocation of the certification
of a public safety officer or instructor.

(6) Notwithstanding the lapse, suspension, revocation or surrender of the certification of a pub-
lic safety officer or instructor, the department may:
(a) Proceed with any investigation of, or any action or disciplinary proceedings against, the
public safety officer or instructor; or
(b) Revise or render void an order suspending or revoking the certification.

(7) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the accreditation of a training or educational
program or any course, subject, facility or instruction thereof if the program, course, subject, facility
or instruction is not in compliance with rules adopted or conditions prescribed under ORS 181A.410
(1)(g) or 181A.590 (3).

(8) When the department completes an investigation relating to a person’s qualifications for
employment, training or certification under this section, the department shall issue a report.

(9) In cases involving a proposed denial of training or certification of a public safety officer or
instructor by the department, the department has jurisdiction to proceed with any action against the
public safety officer or instructor notwithstanding a subsequent change in the employment status
of the officer or instructor, if:
(a) The department has issued a notice of intent to deny training or certification; and
(b) The officer or instructor has requested a hearing.

SECTION 4. ORS 181A.640, as amended by section 3 of this 2019 Act, is amended to read:
181A.640. (1) The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training may deny the application
for training, or deny, suspend or revoke the certification, of any public safety officer or instructor,
except a youth correction officer or fire service professional, after written notice and hearing consis-
tent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a finding that:
(a) The public safety officer or instructor falsified any information submitted on the application
for certification or on any documents submitted to the Board on Public Safety Standards and
Training or the department.
(b) The public safety officer or instructor has been convicted of a crime or violation in this state
or any other jurisdiction.
(c) The public safety officer or instructor does not meet the applicable minimum standards,
minimum training or the terms and conditions established under ORS 181A.410 (1)(a) to (d).
(d) The public safety officer failed to comply with ORS 181A.790 (3)(b) [or section 1 (4)(a) of this
2019 Act].

(2) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the certification of a fire service professional,
after written notice and hearing consistent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a
finding that the fire service professional has been convicted in this state of a crime listed in ORS
137.700 or in any other jurisdiction of a crime that, if committed in this state, would constitute a
crime listed in ORS 137.700.

(3) The department may deny, suspend or revoke the certification of any fire service professional
after written notice and hearing consistent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a
finding:
(a) That the fire service professional falsified any information submitted on the application for
certification or on any documents submitted to the board or the department; or
(b) Consistent with ORS 670.280, that the fire service professional is not fit to receive or hold
the certification as a result of conviction of a crime in this state, or in any other jurisdiction, other
than a crime described in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the certification of any public safety officer or instructor, except a youth correction officer, after written notice and hearing consistent with the provisions of ORS 181A.630, based upon a finding that the public safety officer or instructor has been discharged for cause from employment as a public safety officer.

(5) The department, in consultation with the board, shall adopt rules specifying those crimes and violations for which a conviction requires the denial, suspension or revocation of the certification of a public safety officer or instructor.

(6) Notwithstanding the lapse, suspension, revocation or surrender of the certification of a public safety officer or instructor, the department may:

(a) Proceed with any investigation of, or any action or disciplinary proceedings against, the public safety officer or instructor; or

(b) Revise or render void an order suspending or revoking the certification.

(7) The department shall deny, suspend or revoke the accreditation of a training or educational program or any course, subject, facility or instruction thereof if the program, course, subject, facility or instruction is not in compliance with rules adopted or conditions prescribed under ORS 181A.410 (1)(g) or 181A.590 (3).

(8) When the department completes an investigation relating to a person's qualifications for employment, training or certification under this section, the department shall issue a report.

(9) In cases involving a proposed denial of training or certification of a public safety officer or instructor by the department, the department has jurisdiction to proceed with any action against the public safety officer or instructor notwithstanding a subsequent change in the employment status of the officer or instructor, if:

(a) The department has issued a notice of intent to deny training or certification; and

(b) The officer or instructor has requested a hearing.

SECTION 5. ORS 408.020 is amended to read:

408.020. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may provide financial aid to beneficiaries who desire to pursue an approved course of study or professional training, including training as a police officer under ORS 181A.355 to 181A.670 pursuant to section 1 of this 2019 Act, in or in connection with any accredited state or other public school or accredited private school or accredited college consistent with ORS 408.010 to 408.090.

(2) Financial aid under this section may not exceed $150 per month for each month of full-time study or training or $100 per month for each month of part-time study or training.

(3) The total number of monthly payments under subsection (2) of this section may not exceed the total number of months served in the Armed Forces of the United States or 36, whichever is less.

(4) The Director of Veterans' Affairs may permit a beneficiary to attend a school or college outside of this state upon a satisfactory showing that the training required is not available in an accredited institution within this state.

(5) A beneficiary may not receive payments or benefits under ORS 408.010 to 408.090 at the same time that the beneficiary is receiving educational aid under any federal Act based upon prior service in the Armed Forces. Time spent by a person who applies for benefits under ORS 408.010 to 408.090 in the army specialized training program, the Navy V-12 program or other like training program may not be counted as service in the Armed Forces within the purview of ORS 408.010.

SECTION 6. ORS 408.020, as amended by section 5 of this 2019 Act, is amended to read:

408.020. (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may provide financial aid to beneficiaries who
desire to pursue an approved course of study or professional training, including training as a police officer under ORS 181A.355 to 181A.670 pursuant to section 1 of this 2019 Act, in or in connection with any accredited state or other public school or accredited private school or accredited college consistent with ORS 408.010 to 408.090.

(2) Financial aid under this section may not exceed $150 per month for each month of full-time study or training or $100 per month for each month of part-time study or training.

(3) The total number of monthly payments under subsection (2) of this section may not exceed the total number of months served in the Armed Forces of the United States or 36, whichever is less.

(4) The Director of Veterans’ Affairs may permit a beneficiary to attend a school or college outside of this state upon a satisfactory showing that the training required is not available in an accredited institution within this state.

(5) A beneficiary may not receive payments or benefits under ORS 408.010 to 408.090 at the same time that the beneficiary is receiving educational aid under any federal Act based upon prior service in the Armed Forces. Time spent by a person who applies for benefits under ORS 408.010 to 408.090 in the army specialized training program, the Navy V-12 program or other like training program may not be counted as service in the Armed Forces within the purview of ORS 408.010.

SECTION 7. (1) Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

(2) The amendments to ORS 181A.640 and 408.020 by sections 4 and 6 of this 2019 Act become operative on January 2, 2026.

(3) Section 2 of this 2019 Act is repealed on December 31, 2024.