A-Bill for an Act

Relating to psychological screening for law enforcement officers; and prescribing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
   (a) “Law enforcement agency” means a public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, that employs law enforcement officers to enforce criminal laws.
   (b) “Law enforcement officer” means a police officer, reserve officer or certified reserve officer, as those terms are defined in ORS 181A.355.

(2) A law enforcement agency may not employ a person as a law enforcement officer unless the person has completed a psychological screening to determine the person’s fitness to serve as a law enforcement officer.

(3) The psychological screening required by subsection (2) of this section must be conducted by a licensed mental health professional who meets the qualifications and training requirements established by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training by rule.

(4) The board shall establish by rule:
   (a) The qualifications and training necessary for a licensed mental health professional to conduct a psychological screening under this section; and
   (b) Standards and procedures for conducting a psychological screening under this section.

SECTION 2. (1) Section 1 of this 2019 Act becomes operative on January 1, 2020.

(2) Section 1 of this 2019 Act applies to persons hired by a law enforcement agency, including persons moving from one law enforcement agency to another law enforcement agency, on or after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section.

SECTION 3. The Board on Public Safety Standards and Training may take any action before the operative date specified in section 2 of this 2019 Act that is necessary for the board to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in section 2 of this 2019 Act, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the board by section 1 of this 2019 Act.
SECTION 4. This 2019 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2019 regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.