

Hello,

I would like to contribute to the public opinion on these issues:

HB 4201 represents tacit acknowledgement that it does not suffice to entrust Internal Affairs, nor even municipal auditors, as sole arbiters when violence by police rises to this magnitude.

HB 4203 is crucial, and can be expanded beyond chokeholds given the diction to anything that restricts breathing. However, it does not have language about restricting blood flow ("carotid restraint").

HB 4205 constitutes a subtle demonstration that the crafters of the bill are cognizant that many of the most egregious violations are technically legal. It is a savvy way to try to get around use of "qualified immunity". Even if technically something is legal, if a cop knows it is unethical, they will become required to report it. This will also help legally protect whistle-blowers.

HB 4207 goes beyond what some other states are doing in terms of initiating databases of police disciplinary records, by making ours public. This will be an improvement in Oregon's overall transparency, which is not nearly as ideal overall as one might have expected by comparing how much more data is publicly available on our COVID-19 cases than is in other states.

HB 4208 is significant in that it bans both tear gas and sonic weapons — two of the main demands of those who have been advocating that we "demilitarize" policing. It will be worth examining the full policy to see whether anything additional will be covered (e.g., pepper spray, rubber bullets), at least with regard to deployment upon peaceful protesters.

HB 4204 is necessary so that homeowners are not evicted during the pandemic.

HB 4213 is necessary so that renters of homes and of small businesses are not evicted during the pandemic.

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