Carrier: Rep. Bynum, Rep. Noble

HB 3355 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/06/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wallan, Wilde

Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/10, 3/15, 3/17, 3/30, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies what identification must be on a law enforcement officer's uniform and gear during crowd management situations in cities with populations over 150,000. Directs law enforcement agency to adopt policy prohibiting the intentional obscuring of the required identification. Provides that previously stated requirements do not apply to the Oregon State Police. Requires a law enforcement officer to provide their name and identifying number, or a business card, to a member of the public upon request if practical, safe, and tactically feasible. Provides process by which a member of the public can request and obtain the name and state assigned identifying number of an officer from a law enforcement agency. Allows exception if officer is participating in an undercover operation. Defines "crowd management," "law enforcement agency," and "law enforcement officer." Becomes operative 90 days after effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experiences with law enforcement during recent protests
- Potential definitions of "crowd management"
- Overview of work group process
- Potential amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces sections 1 and 2 of measure. Creates definition for "crowd management." Limits application of uniform requirements. Allows affected agency to choose between placing officer's first initial and last name or assigned number on front and back of uniform during crowd management situations.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2020 interim, the Joint Committee on Transparent Policing and Use of Force Reform was formed in response to the death of George Floyd in Minnesota and the protests that followed. During its hearings, the Committee heard concerns about the inability of the public to identify law enforcement officers responding to the protests. Subsequently, a work group was formed to address these concerns and propose solutions.

House Bill 3355 A specifies what identification must be on an officer engaged in crowd management in cities with populations over 150,000, requires officers to identify themselves to members of the public in most circumstances, and creates a process by which a member of the public can request the name and identification number of an officer from a law enforcement agency.