

Requested by Representative POWER

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 2486**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 26 and delete page
2 2 and insert:

3 **“SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule,
4 ordinance, policy or order to the contrary, any official of a public
5 body, as defined in ORS 174.109, must grant credentialed or docu-
6 mented representatives of news media organizations access to scenes
7 of wildfires or natural disasters that are otherwise closed to the public.**

8 **“(2) Access by news media representatives to scenes of wildfires or
9 natural disasters may be denied at the sole discretion of an onsite
10 scene commander or public safety agency-designated public informa-
11 tion officer.**

12 **“(3) In compliance with guidelines for recognition of news media
13 representatives established under section 2 of this 2021 Act, an official
14 of a public body may request news media representatives to present
15 press credentials or other documentation verifying their status as
16 news media representatives before granting access to scenes of
17 wildfires or natural disasters.**

18 **“(4) Except as described in subsection (2) of this section, an onsite
19 scene commander or a public safety agency-designated public infor-
20 mation officer may, in their sole discretion, grant credentialed or
21 documented news media representatives access to a scene of a wildfire**

1 or natural disaster without escort, provided the news media represen-
2 tatives agree that entry is at their own risk and without promise of
3 rescue.

4 “(5) Nothing in subsection (4) of this section may be interpreted to
5 require that credentialed or documented news media representatives
6 be granted access to a scene of a wildfire or natural disaster without
7 escort.

8 “(6) Nothing in this section alters the applicability of Federal Avi-
9 ation Administration regulations that govern the closure or restriction
10 of airspace over incidents.

11 **“SECTION 2. (1) The Department of State Police shall convene a**
12 **committee composed of equal numbers of media and public safety**
13 **agency stakeholders to develop the following voluntary guidelines for**
14 **implementing section 1 of this 2021 Act:**

15 “(a) Press credentials and documentation establishing that individ-
16 uals are news media representatives affiliated with, but not limited to,
17 print, broadcast or electronic outlets supported by advertising, sub-
18 scriptions or donations;

19 “(b) Examples of when circumstances warrant denial of access on
20 grounds of compromising the safety of emergency response personnel,
21 impeding the response of emergency equipment or personnel, protect-
22 ing the privacy of victims of a wildfire or natural disaster or impeding
23 the investigation of the incident that constitutes the scene of a
24 wildfire or natural disaster;

25 “(c) Examples of when public bodies, as defined in ORS 174.109, may
26 require news media representatives to provide their own personal
27 protective equipment and use personal protective equipment, and cir-
28 cumstances when particular types of personal protective equipment
29 may be required; and

30 “(d) Examples of when public bodies should conduct safety briefings

1 for news media representatives and the recommended content of safety
2 briefings.

3 “(2) The department shall consult with local law enforcement and
4 local fire department personnel, representatives of local governing
5 bodies and representatives of news media organizations in developing
6 voluntary guidelines under this section.

7 “(3) The department shall ensure that adopted voluntary guidelines
8 are broadly disseminated to state and local public bodies and officials.

9 “(4) The committee described in this section shall designate one
10 representative of public safety agencies and one representative of news
11 media to report on the work of the committee to the House Interim
12 Committee on Rules before February 1, 2022.

13 “SECTION 3. Nothing in section 1 or 2 of this 2021 Act may be
14 construed to require a public safety agency to issue news media cre-
15 dentials or to maintain a list of credentialed news media represen-
16 tatives.

17 “SECTION 4. Section 1 of this 2021 Act becomes operative on Jan-
18 uary 1, 2022.

19 “SECTION 5. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is
21 declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.”.

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