

SB 699 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/19, 5/17, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands the definition of "public safety officer" to include regulatory specialists (as related to the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC)) who would be eligible for an award of benefits from the Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The board historically has had narrow criteria for inclusion in the PSMF
- Regulatory specialists don't make physical custody arrests and are not allowed to carry firearms
- The type and length of training received by person's currently eligible for the fund versus what regulatory specialists receive
- The types of dangers regulatory specialists confront and the involvement of police officers
- Would expand eligibility for the same pot of money
- Illicit hemp production; duties of regulatory specialists
- The latitude of the board to approve applications for fund monies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Established by the Legislative Assembly in 1999, the Oregon Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF) is administered and staffed by DPSST, in conjunction with a Governor-appointed PSMF Board of public safety constituents. The fund provides financial assistance to public safety officers who are permanently and totally disabled as a result of a line of duty injury, and to family members of the public safety officers who have been killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. The PSMF is supported with Criminal Fine Account moneys. The statutory benefit for a qualifying death or disability is a lump sum payment of \$25,000. Additionally, the six-member PSMF Board may award discretionary benefits to assist with mortgage payments, health or dental insurance coverage payments, or higher education scholarships.

"Public safety officer" currently includes corrections officers, firefighters (including volunteer firefighters), parole and probation officers, police officers (including reserve), and youth correction officers.

"Regulatory specialist" is defined in ORS 471.001 as a full-time employee of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) who is authorized to act as an agent of the commission in conducting inspections or investigations, making arrests and seizures, aiding in prosecutions for offenses, issuing citations for violations and otherwise enforcing commission rules and any other statutes the commission considers related to regulating liquor, marijuana or marijuana-derived products.

Senate Bill 699 would allow OLCC regulatory specialists to be eligible for receipt of benefits from the Public Safety Memorial fund.