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Oregon House Passes Bills Reforming Police Response to Protests

HB 3355 A specifies what identification must be on an officer's uniform during crowd management situations, and HB 3059 A gives local authorities more clarity in how to manage "unlawful assemblies."

SALEM, OR—Today the House passed [HB 3355 A](#), which specifies what identification must be on a law enforcement officer's uniform and gear during crowd management situations, such as protests. The bill, which applies to cities with populations over 150,000, also prohibits officers from intentionally obscuring their name, identification number, or business card to a member of the public upon request.

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.

“At the end of the day, this is about public safety,” said [Rep. Janelle Bynum](#) (D-Clackamas). “There must be trust between law enforcement and the public, and transparency is a crucial part to this. As a law enforcement officer, you are not only responsible and accountable to yourself and your family, but to your community and the entire state of Oregon.”

Additionally, the House passed [HB 3059 A](#), which gives local authorities more clarity in how to manage “unlawful assemblies.” Some police bureaus have used existing state law to apply indiscriminate force in these situations, often using force on and arresting non-violent members of a crowd. HB 3059 A will allow bureaus more flexibility to not arrest non-violent protestors when an “unlawful assembly” is declared.

“Oregonians have a right to come together, raise their voices, and demand justice from those in power. This is about our democracy and critical to the fight towards a more equitable future,” said [Rep. Andrea Valderrama](#) (D-East Portland). “Too many folks have found themselves

injured, traumatized, and arrested simply for exercising their First Amendment rights. HB 3509 A is one step toward ending the mass arrests and use of force on peaceful protestors.”

These bills are part of a series of bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored by Rep. Bynum, chair of the House Judiciary and Equitable Policing committees, whose leadership has been central to the legislature’s police reform efforts.

Both bills passed unanimously and now move onto the Senate.

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