



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 26, 2015

For More Information, Contact:
Scott Moore (503) 986-1904
scott.moore@state.or.us

Bill Addressing Police Profiling Clears the House in Bipartisan Vote *HB 2002 defines profiling, requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies*

Currently, the State of Oregon has no rules in place prohibiting law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling, and there is no definition of profiling in Oregon statute.

That will change under [House Bill 2002](#), which passed the House today by a vote of 55-4. HB 2002 establishes long-needed rules governing police profiling.

“Ultimately, for our criminal justice system to work, the public must have trust in the system,” says Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland), who co-carried the bill. “All Oregonians should know they will be treated fairly and equitably, regardless of their race, socioeconomic status, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. When we address problems like police profiling together, we strengthen public trust which makes our communities stronger and safer.”

The practice of police profiling has had profound impacts on Communities of Color.

“Imagine your reaction if you were pulled over in your car, or stopped while walking, for no reason,” says Rep. Lew Frederick (D-Portland), who also co-carried the bill. “Then imagine that it happens again and again. If you can imagine that, you’ve imagined a piece of our world.”

“Profiling degrades the quality of our everyday lives,” Rep. Frederick adds. “It needs to be illegal. It needs to stop.”

House Bill 2002:

- Defines “Profiling” to mean that a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer targets an individual for suspicion of violating any provision of law based solely on one of the following real or perceived factors: age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, language, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, homelessness, or disability unless acting on a suspect description or information related to an identified or suspected violation of any provision of law.”
- Requires local law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies prohibiting profiling that align with the new definition.
- Establishes a system for reporting complaints:

- Allows individuals to report incidents of profiling to the local agency with which they experienced profiling.
- If an individual feels uncomfortable making this complaint to their local agency, they may file a complaint with the Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC). This complaint may be filed anonymously.
- Data Sharing: Requires local agencies to send all complaint data to the LECC and requires the LECC send all complaint data to the relevant local agency. This two-way sharing of information ensures both entities have full data sets.
- Data Collection: The LECC will be able to analyze complaint data to provide a full picture regarding where, when, and to whom profiling exists in Oregon.
- Establishes a workgroup on enforcement: Tasked with developing a process for identifying patterns and practices of profiling, as well as a method to address and correct these patterns and practices once identified.

“HB 2002 will help ensure that all Oregonians are treated fairly without threatening the public safety of our communities,” says Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha), chair of the House Judiciary Committee.

HB 2002 will now head to the Senate for consideration.

###