



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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Tribal Police Receive Expanded Authority and Responsibility under Senate Bill 412

SALEM – The Oregon House today passed legislation to foster greater cooperation between Oregon law enforcement and the police forces of the nine tribal nations within the state. SB 412 was passed 33-25.

Hose Co-Speaker Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) said the legislation would provide tribal officers better training and more access to their law enforcement colleagues. The bill would also allow tribal police to conduct their duties off of reservation land.

“This bill improves the relationship between tribal police and Oregon law enforcement officers. It provides Oregon law enforcement with some new allies in their efforts to keep our communities safe. And it allows our tribal police officers to act as peace officers anywhere in the state as long as they are performing their official duties,” said Roblan.

Roblan added he believed the legislation would promote reciprocity, making it more likely that tribal police forces would partner with other Oregon law enforcement personnel. These agreements between the tribes and surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions will allow both Oregon and tribal leaders to develop working relationships to provide better enforcement in both tribal communities and surrounding areas.

“These new tribal police officers will be trained exactly as our state police and local officers. They will have the ability to conduct themselves as any other police officer in the state. And that can only benefit the residents of the tribal lands and Oregon communities who are their neighbors,” said Roblan.

“We can now have conversations to a much deeper degree in developing new ways for our law enforcement communities to work together. SB 412 ushers in a new era of cooperation between our tribes and our local law enforcement officers.”

The bill now moves to back to the Senate for concurrence in amendments.

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