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Oregon Senate Builds on Anti-Doxing Legislation

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed House Bill 3273 today, a bill which modifies how booking photos can be released in order to prevent “doxing” and protect privacy. Doxing is a general term used to describe a situation in which someone deliberately shares another individual’s private information on the internet with an intent to incite harassment. House Bill 3273 complements House Bill 3047, which was passed earlier this week and provides civil remedy to those who have experienced doxing.

“A photo can ruin your life,” said Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) who co-carried House Bill 3273 and is a former a law enforcement officer. “Disproportionately, those who are picked up by law enforcement are BIPOC Oregonians, folks who look like me. One photo should not determine your future. In addition, we’ve seen booking photos used to harass and intimidate individuals who have been exercising their right to peacefully assemble in the name of racial justice and it’s impacted their employment and their ability to exist and move freely in their communities.”

House Bill 3273 limits the circumstances in which booking photos may be released by law enforcement, while ensuring they can share these photos in order to locate a suspect or fugitive and maintain public safety as a priority. The bill also requires that so-called “publish-for-pay” publications remove and destroy the booking photo image upon request. The bill provides that these publishers may assess a fee of no more than \$50 and allows a person to file a civil suit for the failure to remove that image.

“These booking photos end up on predatory websites long before an individual is convicted of a crime and have even been used to extort money from innocent individuals,” said Senator Floyd Prozanski who co-carried the bill and chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Measure 110 Implementation. “Time and again we have seen these photos distributed to cause harm and create bias against individuals. These photos can be important for law enforcement, but they shouldn’t harm one’s opportunity to succeed and contribute to their community.

House Bill 3273 now goes to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

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