



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Police profiling bill approved in the Oregon Senate

HB 2002 defines profiling, requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies

SALEM – The Senate approved legislation this afternoon establishing long-needed rules governing police profiling. 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. House Bill 2002 addresses this omission.

“Despite strong positions against profiling at local levels, Oregon does not yet have a statewide policy which addresses or even defines profiling. That changes today,” said Senator Chip Shields (D-Portland), who carried the bill on the floor. “Crafted in collaboration between advocates and law enforcement partners, HB 2002 is intended to improve relationships between law enforcement and the public while keeping our communities safer.”

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. The bill also requires local law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies prohibiting profiling that align with the new definition.

“We can no longer be silent on the issue of racial profiling,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “As news headline after headline makes clear, profiling is a legitimate

concern for minority populations. This bill strikes a balance between protecting the rights of Oregon citizens to live free from harassment with the need to allow police officers to do their job of keeping communities safe.”

House Bill 2002 establishes a system for reporting complaints that 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).

HB 2002 will now go to the Governor for her consideration.

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