

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

February 3, 1997 Hearing Room D

1:00 P.M. Tapes 12 - 13

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Ken Strobeck, Chair

Rep. Dan Gardner, Vice-Chair

Rep. Jim Hill

Rep. Bob Montgomery

Rep. Kurt Schrader

Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen

Rep. Tom Whelan

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Jeri Chenelle, Administrator

Timaree Whitty, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2102 Public Hearing

HB 2179 Work Session

HB 2180 Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
Note: Tape 11 not used.		
TAPE 12, A		
001	Chair Strobeck	Opens meeting at 1:05 p.m.
025	Chair Strobeck	MOTION: Moves LC 2052 BE INTRODUCED February 6, 1997 as a committee bill.

		VOTE: Hearing no objection, motion carried. (LC 2052 is introduced as HB 2591.)
<u>HB 2102</u>		
<u>PUBLIC</u>		
<u>HEARING</u>		
029	Chair Strobeck	Opens public hearing on HB 2102.
032	Jeri Chenelle	Committee Administrator, reviews provisions of the bill.
040	Steve Bennett	Executive Director, Public Safety Standards and Training Board gives testimony in support of HB 2102 (EXHIBIT A).
086	Rep. Gardner	Asks how many of the 980 certified fire fighters would be affected by this legislation.
090	Bennett	Responds there are 11,800 fire fighters in Oregon, and this legislation would not affect anyone currently certified; only those inactive for over one year will be affected.
096	Rep. Gardner	Asks of the 11,800 certified fire fighters, how many have been inactive for one year.
100	Bennett	Responds there is no reporting requirements at this time to reveal this information.
110	Rep. Gardner	Asks why one year has been specified.
115	Bennett	Responds participants have one year to become certified initially.
120	Rep. Whelan	Asks about his personal experience as a certified fire fighter on leave for six months to participate in this session.
125	Bennett	After six months certification is still in effect; however, a period longer than one year would require a request for reinstatement.
150	Rep. Schrader	Asks for clarification between becoming certified and re-certification.
153	Bennett	Responds one must apply for reinstatement, the application is reviewed, applicant's competence to perform is determined, and recommendations are made.
162	Rep. Schrader	Asks who makes the rules.
167	Bennett	Responds the board, which is made up of the Fire Advisory Committee and the Telecommunications Advisory Committee.
175	Chair Strobeck	Asks about the catalyst that created this legislation.
178	Bennett	Responds the board is concerned with erosion of job ability and know-how, public safety and safety of co-workers.
199	Chair Strobeck	Asks why this has not been brought up before.
202	Bennett	Responds this was a requirement for fire fighters until the transition from the Fire Standards and Accreditation Board (in 1993) to BPST. During the transfer of responsibilities this requirement was lost. Comments prior to 1993, no requirement existed for

		telecommunicators or emergency medical dispatchers to be certified.
224	Rep. VanLeeuwen	Asks if it is by law that certification is for life whether active or inactive.
232	Bennett	Responds current law does not allow for any lapsing of certification.
243	Rep. VanLeeuwen	Asks about what is involved in testing as far as time and cost involved.
247	Bennett	Explains the need for consideration because rules and costs have not been established, and requirements depend on job duties and length of absence. They are currently looking at other emergency service professions as models.
300	Chair Strobeck	Asks about fees for re-certification
303	Bennett	Responds there is no cost to individuals for re-certification. Telecommunicators and emergency dispatch costs are paid by telephone tax. Training costs are funded by fire insurance premium tax.
358	Rep. VanLeeuwen	Asks if re-certification takes place before or after re-employment.
365	Bennett	Explains the board would notify individuals of certification lapse and the individual would then reapply before re-employment could be obtained.
TAPE 13, A		
005	Chair Strobeck	Asks about the difficulty of drafting standards for various lengths of certification lapse, ie. one year lapse vs. ten year lapse.
013	Bennett	Discusses the board's decision and willingness to draft necessary standards.
030	Rep. Gardner	Asks how the fiscal impact can be negligible when this proposal will require large amounts of record keeping, mailing, and/or training.
033	Bennett	Responds prudent and reasonable administrative requirements are implemented. Fire and rescue departments will be required to send in a form on the status of their employees.
063	Chair Strobeck	Closes public hearing on HB 2102. Opens work session on HB 2179.
HB 2179 WORK SESSION		
090	Rep. Montgomery	MOTION: Moves HB 2179 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
095		VOTE: 6-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. EXCUSED: 1 - VanLeeuwen

	Chair Strobeck	The motion CARRIES. REP. GARDNER will lead discussion on the floor.
099	Chair Strobeck	Closes work session on HB 2179. Opens work session on HB 2180
<u>HB 2180 WORK SESSION</u>		
105	Chenelle	Gives summary on HB 2214.
117	Rep. Gardner	MOTION: Moves HB 2214 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
123	Rep. Montgomery	Asks about costs of HB 2214.
130	Rollie Wisbrock	Chief of Staff , Oregon Treasury Department gives testimony in support of HB 2214.
144	Rep. Montgomery	Asks about pay scale range of requested position.
151	Wisbrock	Responds no high than a 29. He will get back to the committee on what this means in terms of salary.
158	Rep. Whelan	Asks about a general fund obligation.
160	Wisbrock	Responds this is not a general fund position.
163	Rep. Schrader	Asks where funds will go if not used for this position.
165	Wisbrock	Responds these are not spare funds.
175	Rep. Schrader	Questions the need for this bill.
185	Wisbrock	Explains board members will not be paid. There possibly could be minimal transportation compensation from Portland.
196	Rep. Montgomery	Asks if this is being referred to Ways and Means.
202	Wisbrock	Responds this position is part of a budget package that will be heard by Ways and Means.
225	Rep. VanLeeuwen	Asks if we have a state wide advisory committee similar to this proposal.
228	Wisbrock	Responds no such advisory committee exists right now.
263	Rep. VanLeeuwen	Asks about the existence of a state wide bond advisory board.
287	Wisbrock	Explains that other organizations do exist to supply information on bonding. However, no other group takes information from the Department of Administrative Services on a long range basis and compares it to the debt capacity of the state and then supplies that information to the legislature.
324	Rep. Hill	Asks how high a bond rating can be reached.

326	Wisbrock	Responds we are currently at a strong AA and could reasonably reach a AA+; however, we are not prepared to go to a AAA at this time.
375	Chair Strobeck	Asks Rep. Gardner to withdraw motion to pass HB 2214.
379	Rep. Gardner	Withdraws motion.
380	Chair Strobeck	Closes work session on HB 2214.
TAPE 12, B		
003	Rep. Hill	Asks permission to distribute materials regarding HB 2185.
010	Chair Strobeck	Adjourns meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Timaree Whitty Jeri Chenelle

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 2102, Written Testimony, Steve Bennett, 1 p.