



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI

GOVERNOR

STATE OF OREGON

**OREGON SENATE
PRESIDENT PETER COURTNEY**

**OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER KAREN MINNIS**

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CONTACT: Governor's Office: Anna Richter Taylor (503) 378-6496
Sen. President's Office: Tanya Gross (503) 986-1605
Speaker's Office: Charles Deister (503) 986-1353

**Governor, Legislative Leaders Propose Additional Funding for Oregon State
Police at January E-Board Meeting**

SALEM – Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Karen Minnis today announced they will forward a proposal to the state Emergency Board that will put additional state troopers on the road in coming months by allocating \$660,000 to hire new evidence technicians, freeing up sworn officers who are currently performing this duty. In addition, their proposal would set aside \$900,910 in funding for the E-Board to disburse to the State Police at its April meeting to fund 10 new trooper positions for its next recruitment cycle.

The proposal will be submitted to the E-Board's General Government Subcommittee for its approval at its meeting tomorrow at the Capitol. If approved by the Subcommittee, the proposal would then be forwarded to the full E-Board when it meets on Friday, January 20.

"The patrol function of the Oregon State Police is critical to creating safe communities and a strong economy," Governor Ted Kulongoski said. "I have always strongly supported maintaining this function within the state police and I continue to support increasing the number of officers who patrol our communities and protect our citizens. The package we're proposing today will help us provide certainty for the Oregon State Police and safety to the citizens of Oregon."

Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) said, "I'm pleased we could arrive at a bipartisan solution that puts more troopers on the road and helps make communities safer."

“This plan would allow us to quickly put additional troopers on our roads while setting aside money to fund a new recruit cycle in the spring,” said House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village). “Oregon State Police troopers are often the only law enforcement on hundreds of miles of Oregon roads. Adding troopers immediately will help provide some relief and back-up for them.”

In detail, the proposal includes the following:

1. Evidence Technicians

Re-establish the evidence technician program to free up time currently spent by sworn staff which would increase the amount of "trooper resource" on the road (roughly equivalent to 8 trooper positions).

Establish ten positions with a program tech position starting almost immediately (Feb 1) to initiate the program and assist with recruitment and training of nine evidence tech positions to start April 1. The proposal will include staff costs and some one-time start-up costs including training. The initial training for the evidence techs will likely be 40 hours with continued training throughout the biennium. Total cost of this part of proposal is \$660,000 General Fund.

2. Troopers

Establish a reserve in the Emergency Fund of \$900,910 which will be available to the State Police to request at the April Emergency Board for new troopers. The funding will be available if the following conditions are met.

- a) The evidence technician positions outlined above are indeed filled.
- b) There are sufficient eligible recruits to fill the sworn vacancies of existing positions available May 1st. These vacancies must be sworn positions whose funding is not dedicated for other purposes such as double-filled positions. The number of these vacancies must equal at least 20.
- c) The agency is ready to start a new recruit school on or soon after May 1.
- d) Funding from the reserve will be available for up to 10 new trooper positions for the Patrol Division as long as there are sufficient numbers of eligible recruits beyond the number used to meet #1 above.

Any funding remaining in the E Fund reserve after fulfilling #3 will revert to the Emergency Fund after the April E Board meeting. It is the expectation that the funding for both the troopers and the evidence tech program can only be used for these specific purposes and can not be used for other issues or shortfalls the agency might have.

As part of the request at the April Emergency Board the agency must report the following:

1. An update on the hiring of the evidence tech positions
2. The number of vacancies or current positions available for new recruits
3. The planned date for the recruit school.
4. Information on the number of vacant and double filled positions including information on a position by position basis on the type of position (sworn or non-sworn), division, length of time position has been vacant or double filled, state of filling the vacant position, and the reason the position is vacant or double-filled.
5. Information on the financial status of the agency in terms of budget shortfalls by division/program and any offsetting program savings.

In addition, at each future Emergency Board through the end of 2006 the agency will report on the information required in #4 and #5 above.