Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline Codified ORS 243.812 Report to House Committee on Judiciary September 1, 2025

Executive Summary

The Legislative Assembly established the Commission on Statewide Law Enforcement Standards of Conduct and Discipline ("the LESC Commission") through House Bill 2930 (2021) (now codified at ORS 243.812). This statute charged the Commission with adopting rules that prescribe uniform standards of conduct and disciplinary standards and procedures, applicable to law enforcement officers. On February 5, 2024, the Commission adopted amendments to OAR 256-001-0005 and OAR 265-005-0001 to conform to amendments to ORS 243.812 made through Senate Bill 808 (2023).

The new Executive Director for the LESC Commission began in September 2024. The Commission adopted by-laws in January 2025, which are posted on the LESC website. The Commission also undertook a review of the Rules, as is required every two years, for each of the seven areas of misconduct so far covered by the rules. Commissioners reviewed all stakeholder feedback received regarding current rules and identified the following rules for potential revision: Unjustified or Excessive Use of Physical or Deadly Force; Sexual Assault; Assault; and Moral character. The Commission also considered an additional minimum sanction of "Non-Disciplinary Corrective Actions."

The Commission replaced the old LESC website with an expanded new website with more resources and guidance, including a feedback form. The Commission Chair and Executive Director made presentations on the standards to the Oregon District Attorney's Association, Oregon State Sheriff's Association, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster, and Tribal Leadership Circle for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Indians. Informational emails were also sent to members of the League of Oregon Cities, the Department of Corrections and the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors.

LESC Staff built a new Rule Implementation database to track the progress of all agencies that employ or discipline officers subject to LESC rules. Commission staff requested information from law enforcement agencies on their progress in implementing and applying the standards. Staff sent an electronic survey to 220 law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, Corrections and Community Corrections agencies. Recipients were informed their responses would be made public and become part of this report. There were 112 responses to this survey, which are summarized in the report.

Commission staff also sent an electronic survey to members of the public and organizations that have requested notification or participated in the rulemaking process. 24 individuals and organizations received the survey, and it was available on the website. There were 3 responses to this survey. Future priorities include expanding outreach and training efforts and posting the implementation tracker as a searchable online tool.

The full report is available electronically on the Commission's website (https://justice.oregon.gov/lesc/). To receive a paper copy, please email your request to LESC@doj.oregon.gov/lesc/).