

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2704

Ordered by the House April 28
Including House Amendments dated April 28

Sponsored by Representative FREDERICK; Representatives LININGER, NEARMAN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Provides that recording of peace officer or parole and probation officer does not constitute crime of interfering with peace officer or parole and probation officer unless recording actually prevents officer from performing lawful duties.]

Creates exemption to prohibition on recording conversations for person **openly** recording law enforcement officer while officer is performing official duties **in public place**.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the recording of law enforcement officers; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 165.540.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 165.540 is amended to read:

6 165.540. (1) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 133.724 or 133.726 or subsections (2) to (7) of
7 this section, a person may not:

8 (a) Obtain or attempt to obtain the whole or any part of a telecommunication or a radio com-
9 munication to which the person is not a participant, by means of any device, contrivance, machine
10 or apparatus, whether electrical, mechanical, manual or otherwise, unless consent is given by at
11 least one participant.

12 (b) Tamper with the wires, connections, boxes, fuses, circuits, lines or any other equipment or
13 facilities of a telecommunication or radio communication company over which messages are trans-
14 mitted, with the intent to obtain unlawfully the contents of a telecommunication or radio communi-
15 cation to which the person is not a participant.

16 (c) Obtain or attempt to obtain the whole or any part of a conversation by means of any device,
17 contrivance, machine or apparatus, whether electrical, mechanical, manual or otherwise, if not all
18 participants in the conversation are specifically informed that their conversation is being obtained.

19 (d) Obtain the whole or any part of a conversation, telecommunication or radio communication
20 from any person, while knowing or having good reason to believe that the conversation, telecom-
21 munication or radio communication was initially obtained in a manner prohibited by this section.

22 (e) Use or attempt to use, or divulge to others, any conversation, telecommunication or radio
23 communication obtained by any means prohibited by this section.

24 (2)(a) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to:

25 (A) Officers, employees or agents of a telecommunication or radio communication company who
26 perform the acts prohibited by subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c) of this section for the purpose of con-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 struction, maintenance or conducting of their telecommunication or radio communication service,
2 facilities or equipment.

3 (B) Public officials in charge of and at jails, police premises, sheriffs' offices, Department of
4 Corrections institutions and other penal or correctional institutions, except as to communications
5 or conversations between an attorney and the client of the attorney.

6 (b) Officers, employees or agents of a telecommunication or radio communication company who
7 obtain information under paragraph (a) of this subsection may not use or attempt to use, or divulge
8 to others, the information except for the purpose of construction, maintenance, or conducting of
9 their telecommunication or radio communication service, facilities or equipment.

10 (3) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) of this section do not apply to subscribers or
11 members of their family who perform the acts prohibited in subsection (1) of this section in their
12 homes.

13 (4) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(a) of this section do not apply to the receiving or obtaining
14 of the contents of any radio or television broadcast transmitted for the use of the general public.

15 (5) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(c) of this section do not apply to:

16 (a) A person who records a conversation during a felony that endangers human life;

17 **(b) A person who openly records a law enforcement officer while the officer is performing**
18 **official duties in a place open to the public as defined in ORS 164.205;**

19 [(b)] (c) A person who, pursuant to ORS 133.400, records an interview conducted by a peace
20 officer in a law enforcement facility;

21 [(c)] (d) A law enforcement officer who is in uniform and displaying a badge and who is oper-
22 ating a vehicle-mounted video camera that records the scene in front of, within or surrounding a
23 police vehicle, unless the officer has reasonable opportunity to inform participants in the conversa-
24 tion that the conversation is being obtained; or

25 [(d)] (e) A law enforcement officer who, acting in the officer's official capacity, deploys an
26 Electro-Muscular Disruption Technology device that contains a built-in monitoring system capable
27 of recording audio or video, for the duration of that deployment.

28 (6) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(c) of this section do not apply to persons who intercept
29 or attempt to intercept with an unconcealed recording device the oral communications that are part
30 of any of the following proceedings:

31 (a) Public or semipublic meetings such as hearings before governmental or quasi-governmental
32 bodies, trials, press conferences, public speeches, rallies and sporting or other events;

33 (b) Regularly scheduled classes or similar educational activities in public or private institutions;
34 or

35 (c) Private meetings or conferences if all others involved knew or reasonably should have known
36 that the recording was being made.

37 (7) The prohibitions in subsection (1)(a), (c), (d) and (e) of this section do not apply to any:

38 (a) Radio communication that is transmitted by a station operating on an authorized frequency
39 within the amateur or citizens bands; or

40 (b) Person who intercepts a radio communication that is transmitted by any governmental, law
41 enforcement, civil defense or public safety communications system, including police and fire, readily
42 accessible to the general public provided that the interception is not for purposes of illegal activity.

43 (8) Violation of subsection (1) or (2)(b) of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

44 (9) As used in this section:

45 (a) "Electro-Muscular Disruption Technology device" means a device that uses a high-voltage,

1 low power charge of electricity to induce involuntary muscle contractions intended to cause tem-
2 porary incapacitation. “Electro-Muscular Disruption Technology device” includes devices commonly
3 known as tasers.

4 (b) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning given that term in ORS 133.726.

5 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 165.540 by section 1 of this 2015 Act apply to con-**
6 **duct occurring on or after the effective date of this 2015 Act.**

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