

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Carl E. Wilkerson III, Sheriff



DATE: February 4, 2026
TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Sheriff Carl Wilkerson, Lane County Sheriff's Office
RE: HB 4108, Relating to Annexation of Land Noncontiguous to a City

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iversion, and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 4108, including the proposed amendment.

From a public safety and law enforcement standpoint, clear jurisdictional boundaries and predictable service responsibilities are essential to effective emergency response and patrol operations. HB 4108 helps address persistent challenges that arise when noncontiguous properties inside an urban growth boundary operate as urban areas but remain outside city limits.

The proposed amendment appropriately refines the bill to ensure flexibility, clarity, and service alignment. Changing the requirement that a city “shall” annex to “may” annex preserves local discretion while still allowing annexation where it improves service efficiency and public safety outcomes. This flexibility is important, as local governments are best positioned to evaluate service capacity and operational impacts. The proposed amendment respects the individual property rights of owners through voluntary participation and local consent to petition for annexation.

When urbanized areas remain outside city limits, the Sheriff's Office is often responsible for policing areas that rely on city roads, city infrastructure, and city growth patterns. Aligning jurisdiction with land use and service realities improves response times, reduces confusion for residents, and allows law enforcement agencies to deploy resources more effectively.

HB 4108 as amended and believes the amendment improves the bill's balance between local discretion, service clarity, and public safety outcomes.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER