

You CAN Make a Difference in the Oregon Legislature...

There is something you as a citizen can do to make a difference. Get the word out to others who feel the same way and teach them the process of tracking a bill and becoming part of the legislative process.

You and others need to keep putting pressure on the right people at the right time. The process is the same in both the House and the Senate.

Here are the key areas where you can insert yourself into the legislative process and possibly make a difference:

- 1. First and foremost, contact your own State Representative and State Senator to let them know your opposition or support for a bill.** Be courteous, include your full contact information, and give them your reasons for opposition or support. If you don't know who your Senator or Representative is, you can find out by going to: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/> and locate the search bar "Find Your District and Legislators."

The screenshot shows the Oregon State Legislature website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Senate, House, Bills and Laws, Committees, Citizen Engagement, and Capitol Offices. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for "2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION" with a sub-header "Quick access to information for the 2021 Legislative Session". A red circle highlights the "Find Your Legislator" button, which is labeled "Senators | Representatives | By Address". Other buttons in this section include "How to Participate", "2021 Senate / House Bills", "2021 Session Committees", "Watch Meetings", and "How to Submit Testimony". To the right of the "Find Your Legislator" button, there are several utility buttons: "OLIS", "Find Bills", "Legislative Dates", "Video", "News", and "Your State Capitol". Below these buttons are three search bars: "Search Oregon Revised Statutes", "Search Bills", and "Find Your District and Legislators". The "Find Your District and Legislators" search bar includes a note: "* Requires full address, city, state, and zip code". At the bottom of the page, there are social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and RSS, along with an "eSubscribe" button. The footer contains a disclaimer, universal access information, employment information, and contact information for the Oregon State Legislature, including the phone number 1-800-332-2313 and the address 1900 Court St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301.

On mobile (towards the bottom of the page):

- View and Search Annotations to the ORS

Oregon Laws:

- View and Search Oregon Laws



Legislator Finder:

- Find Who Represents You

Legislative Calendars:

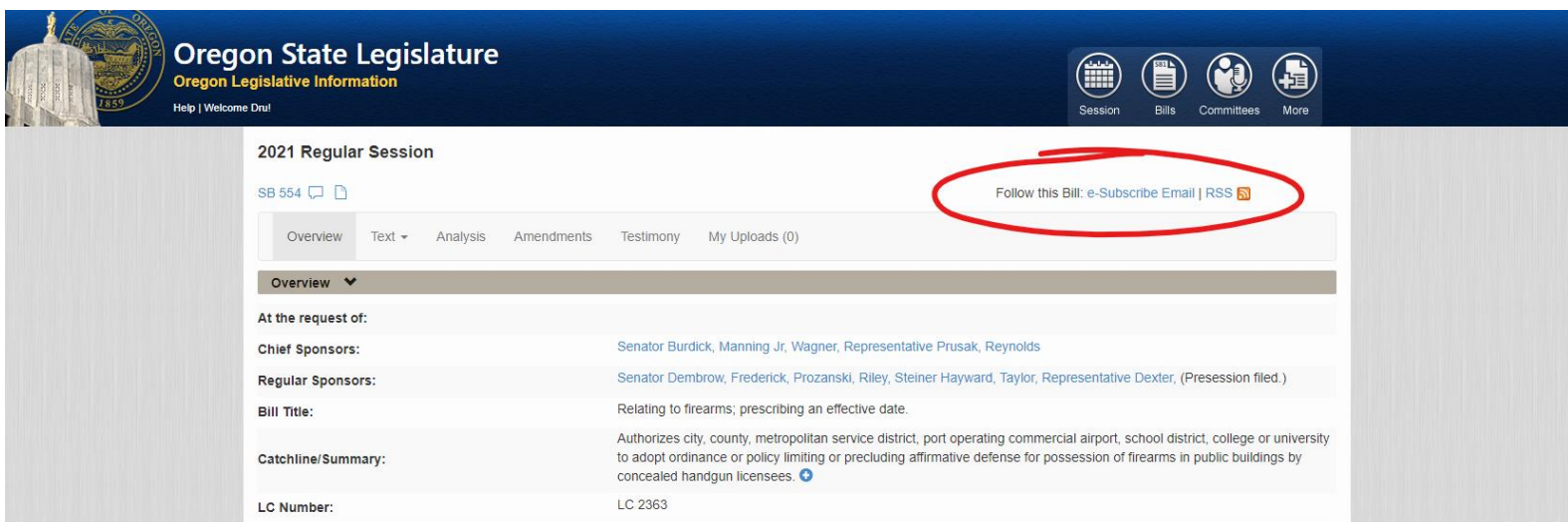
- Today's Events at the Capitol
- Legislative Dates Calendar

Oregon State Legislature
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2. **Subscribe to e-mail updates and find out what committee the bill is assigned to.** You can do this by going to: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2021R1> click on “Bills” and type the bill number in the field. On the bill page you can sign up for e-mail updates for the bill by finding and clicking on “Follow this Bill: e-Subscribe Email” in the upper right hand corner of the page (on both mobile and laptop).




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2021 Regular Session

SB 554  

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Overview

At the request of:

Chief Sponsors: Senator Burdick, Manning Jr, Wagner, Representative Prusak, Reynolds

Regular Sponsors: Senator Dembrow, Frederick, Prozanski, Riley, Steiner Hayward, Taylor, Representative Dexter, (Pre-session filed.)

Bill Title: Relating to firearms; prescribing an effective date.

Catchline/Summary: Authorizes city, county, metropolitan service district, port operating commercial airport, school district, college or university to adopt ordinance or policy limiting or precluding affirmative defense for possession of firearms in public buildings by concealed handgun licensees.

LC Number: LC 2363

If you have a list of bills to subscribe to go to or want to follow a several committees: [Citizen Engagement e-Subscribe \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#). From here, you can choose from a lot of different updated you can receive about a bill or committee.

Alternatively, you can go subscribe directly from the committee page by going to: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/committees/assignments/committee>. Chose the committee you are interested in or that has the bill you are interested in. The “Follow: e-Subscribe Email” button will be in the upper right-hand corner. Agendas are listed on the right-hand side of the committee page.

- 3. Contact the Chairperson of the committee where the bill is assigned.** Also, communicate with the other members of that committee. Let them know you are writing to them, or calling them, because they are on the committee that is currently considering the House Bill or the Senate Bill you are following. Express your concerns or support.
- 4. Keep track of the agendas for the committees you are interested in.** You can urge the Chairperson and other members of the committee to have a public hearing on any bill you are tracking that you like. Again, agendas are listed on the right-hand side of the committee page.

An alternate method to subscribe to bill alerts as well as to legislative committee agendas and more would be to go to the Oregon Legislature’s home page <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov> and click on “[Citizen Engagement/e-Subscribe to Alerts](#).”

- 5. Watch for a public hearing to come up on the committee agenda.** This is a chance for you to not only attend the public hearing, but you can also testify before the committee for or against a bill. You can also submit written testimony for or against the bill by contacting the Committee Administrator. Instructions for testifying at the 2021 Legislative Session “HOW TO TESTIFY at the Oregon Legislature to a Committee” can be found at: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lpro/Publications/How-to-Testify.pdf>.
- 6. The next step after a public hearing can be a committee work session.** At that point, the committee can decide to amend the bill, or vote on it. The bill might get sent to another committee or to the Senate or House floor for a vote by all members.
- 7. If the bill passes out of the committee to the Senate or House floor for vote,** contact your representative or senator and encourage them to vote according to how you feel about the bill (for or against), with your reasons. Be concise to give your message more impact. You can also contact other legislators with your thoughts about the bill and how you would like for them to vote.
- 8. If the bill is approved by the Senate or House, it then moves to the other chamber to go through the same legislative process. Repeat the tracking and communications procedure.**

To understand the timeline of a bill...

- An idea is drafted into a bill
- The bill is assigned a bill number (A House bill always begins with the letter “H”. A Senate bill always begins with the letter “S”).
- The bill is read on the Senate or House Floor for the first time, and then posted on the Internet the next day.

You can now start tracking the bill...

- The House Speaker or Senate President refers the bill to a committee and to the Legislative Fiscal Office and Legislative Revenue Office for fiscal or revenue impact determination.
- The Committee Chairperson determines whether or not a bill will be put on the agenda for a public hearing and a work session. Many bills never make it to the committee agenda and they end up dead on arrival in committee.
- Usually there is a 48-72 hour notice for a first hearing on a bill in committee. There is a shorter notice period for bills as the session gets closer to the end.
- The majority vote of the members of the committee determines whether or not a bill will be moved out of committee.
- If the committee does not pass a bill it is considered dead.
- If the majority votes for the bill to be moved out of committee, the bill will get a second reading in the Senate or House chambers. If there are amendments, it could take up to 7 days. If there are no amendments, it could take place within in 3 days.
- When the bill is posted for a third reading on the Senate or House floor that is your signal that it will be voted on by all the members of that body. If a majority vote in favor, the bill is then sent to the other chamber.
- The whole process starts over again in the other chamber. If the bill is successful in *both* chambers, then it goes to the Governor's desk for his signature.

If you have any questions about this process reach out to your Representative or Senator.