



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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CONTACT: Lindsey O'Brien (503) 986-1907

Houses passes bill to protect workers' social media privacy *HB 2654 would prohibit employers from demanding access to social media accounts*

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives passed legislation to extend the privacy rights of Oregon workers to include social media.

House Bill 2654 would prohibit employers from forcing workers or job applicants to provide access to their personal social media accounts.

"Workers have the right to privacy, even in today's digital world," said Representative Margaret Doherty (D – Tigard/SW Portland), the bill's chief sponsor. "Oregonians do not leave their rights behind when they go online."

House Bill 2654 would prohibit employers from demanding login information from an employee or from insisting an employee "friend" them on Facebook or other social media sites.

"For better or for worse, people share a lot of private information online. Social media sites could reveal a person's faith, sexual orientation, or many other personal details that employers are generally not allowed ask about," House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene) said. "We did the right thing for Oregon workers today, and the legislature must continue to address the changing realities of new media."

House Bill 2654 passed by a vote of 56 – 3 and now moves to the Senate, where several Senators have been working on similar legislation to protect the privacy rights of college students.

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