



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon House Votes to Protect Personal Privacy

HB 2596 would crack down on so-called “up-skirting” and “down-blousing”

SALEM – Today, the Oregon House of Representatives voted unanimously to close a gap in statute pertaining to invasions of personal privacy.

Currently, taking and circulating surreptitiously recorded images of people’s intimate areas is not unlawful in all cases. House Bill 2596, along with Senate Bill 188, will close this loophole and make so-called “up-skirting” and “down-blousing” a crime in all cases.

“Allowing Oregonians to be subjected to this injustice is outrageous and wrong,” said Rep. Peter Buckley (D- Ashland), who carried the bill on the House floor. “Closing this loophole is not only commonsense, it is absolutely necessary.”

These images are often taken without the knowledge or consent of the person being photographed and are then circulated on public social media. In some instances, competitions are held to see who can capture and post the most. For victims, the reputational and personal damage can be lifelong, as these images are functionally permanent once uploaded to the internet.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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