



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House redirects corporate kicker to support education

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives voted to increase education funding rather than send out corporate tax refunds this year.

Last November, two thirds of Oregonians voted to stop Oregon's practice of sending "kicker" funds back to corporations. The changes that voters supported under Measure 85 do not take effect until the next budget cycle, however.

In the event a corporate kicker is triggered, HB 2305 would ensure that the money is instead used to fund community colleges. Oregon is the only state in the nation with the "kicker" law that distributes funds otherwise earmarked for essential services if actual state receipts surpass projections.

"Voters clearly want to use that money to reinvest in education in our state," said House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene). "Today we followed the will of the voters and did the right thing for Oregon."

House Bill 2305A suspends the corporate kicker for the last time before Measure 85 and the permanent repeal of the corporate kicker takes effect. It directs the dollars that exceed the close of session forecast, now nearly two years old, to Oregon's community colleges.

"We had a rare opportunity for our economy, and I'm thrilled that we seized it," said Representative Tobias Read (D – Beaverton). "Community colleges are critical to employers who are looking for skilled employees. By enhancing their funding, we'll make sure that more Oregonians can equip themselves with the skills they need to compete in today's economy."

HB 2305A passed the House with bipartisan vote of 46 – 13 and now heads to the Senate.

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