



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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### **House Democrats Refuse To Allow Review Of Budget Impacts Related To Minimum Wage Increase**

*SB 1532 Will Result In Increased Costs For Schools, State And Local Governments*

**Salem, OR** - Despite the fact that SB 1532, legislative Democrats' proposal to drastically increase the minimum wage, will have impacts on state agency budgets, House Democrats rejected an effort by Republican lawmakers to send the bill to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for further review today. The refusal comes just weeks after the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Office issued a [report](#) on a similar minimum wage proposal that made clear that state budgets would be impacted by the adoption of a higher wage mandate.

"The decision by the majority party to bypass our budget committee in favor of an expedited approach to passing this bill is nearly unprecedented," said Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner), who chairs the House Republican Budget Committee. "We owe it to Oregonians to fully vet this proposal, figure out what it is going to cost taxpayers, and make sure we have a plan for addressing those costs. To not do so is a failure of one of our most fundamental responsibilities as legislators, managing the budget."

A report by the Legislature's nonpartisan budget analysts, while noting that specific impacts were indeterminate, confirmed that state agencies would face an increase in costs as a result of SB 1532's adoption. In addition to costs related to state budgets, the LFO report raised questions about potential impacts to school districts and local governments, including issues of wage compression and salary increases related to escalator clauses.

The motion to refer SB 1532 to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for further review failed on a (24-34) vote.

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