



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

## 2015 Session: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

### The Good

- Commonsense safety and oversight rules and regulations for the legal sale of marijuana ([HB 3400](#))
- “Right to Try” legislation allowing terminally ill patients to access experimental treatments not yet approved for market ([HB 2300](#))
- Bipartisan legislation supporting crime victims and increasing penalties for individuals who commit crimes:
  - Authorizing peace officers to obtain temporary emergency protective orders with the victim’s consent ([HB 2776](#))
  - Passing legislation making “upskirting” illegal in Oregon and enacting 1-year jail sentences for violators ([HB 2356](#))
  - Passing legislation making it illegal to post intimate images of a partner on the Internet without permission ([SB 188](#))
  - Expanding the statute of limitations on prosecutions of rape and severe sex crimes from 6 to 12 years ([HB 2317](#))
  - Establishing the Fund to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children ([HB 2205](#))
  - Passing legislation to protect Oregonians from invasion of personal privacy crimes by prohibiting video voyeurism and increasing penalties for individuals convicted of offense ([HB 2356](#))
  - Passing legislation to adequately fund Oregon’s community-based Child Abuse Intervention Centers ([HB 2234](#))
- The Affordable Baccalaureate Degree Act, which requires collaboration between public universities and community colleges to make college more affordable and accessible for Oregonians ([HB 2937](#))
- Legislation to retain and attract communications companies and family-wage jobs to Oregon by updating the state’s central assessment laws ([SB 611](#))
- Legislation aimed at supporting smaller, rural communities in eastern, southern and

central Oregon:

- Securing \$50 million in bonding for critical water infrastructure projects ([HB 5005](#))
- Supporting a sobering center in Grants Pass ([HB 2936](#))
- Approving housing relief funds for wildfire victims ([HB 3148](#))
- Approving mining studies in eastern and southern Oregon for potential economic development ([HB 3089](#))
- Legislation to increase rail safety in Oregon and protect communities from hazardous material spills ([HB 3225](#))

## The Bad

- House Democrats' proposal to prevent Oregon taxpayers from receiving their constitutionally required kicker tax rebate. The proposal went nowhere after objection from House Republicans ([HB 3555](#))
- Flawed and partisan legislation, passed by Democrats, that automatically registers voters using driver license data and increases costs for county clerks. House Democrats killed 4 Republican-sponsored amendments to protect Oregonians' privacy and personal choices ([HB 2177](#))
- Democrat-sponsored "energy efficient improvement" tax breaks exclusively for Portland residents. The bill died in the Senate after passing the House on a near party-line vote ([HB 3246](#))
- Senate Democrats killed a bipartisan CHL reciprocity measure that allows individuals from other states who have valid concealed handgun license permits to legally carry in Oregon, as well as provide reciprocity for Oregon residents carrying in other states. The bill passed the House 57-1 ([HB 3093](#))
- "Ban the Box" legislation, passed by Democrats, preventing Oregon employers from inquiring about a job candidate's criminal history on an application. No exemptions were granted for employers tasked with protecting children or the elderly, such as day care centers or nursing homes ([HB 3025](#); 2 Democrats opposed)
- Flawed legislation, passed by Democrats, that radically reforms class action lawsuit rules and harms Oregon's small businesses and employers. Democrats killed a House Republican minority report to align Oregon's class action laws with the federal government and 36 other states ([HB 2700](#))
- A \$10 million taxpayer giveaway to the Portland Convention Center Hotel proposal ([SB 927](#))
- Significant hunting and fishing fee increases because of systemic mismanagement at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ([SB 247](#))
- Democrats refused to consider legislation to replace the [Mirror Pond dam](#) in Bend, killing an environmentally sound project that would've increased economic opportunity in the region

- Democrats refused to consider a bipartisan resolution to address over usage of the emergency clause in legislation. [HJR 33](#) would've required any legislation declaring an emergency to provide a justification statement explaining the circumstances necessitating immediate enactment

## The Ugly

- Democrats' prioritization of a flawed, controversial Low Carbon Fuel Standard over a much-needed transportation package. The LCFS program, still under federal investigation, increases gas prices while giving kickbacks to out-of-state crony capitalists. House Democrats killed a Republican cost-effective alternative plan to reduce carbon output in Oregon ([SB 324](#); 4 House Democrats opposed SB 324)
- House Democrats [sided with environmental ideologues](#) and derailed a plan to repeal the flawed LCFS program in exchange for a bipartisan transportation package negotiated and supported by Governor Kate Brown
- Legislative Democrats [killed all 6 House Republican proposals](#) to strengthen Oregon's ethics laws and increase accountability, transparency and oversight in state government. Included among these proposals were bills to establish a formal impeachment process for the executive branch and protect state employee whistleblowers who expose illegal and corrupt behavior in state government
- A partisan and inadequate K-12 funding bill, passed by legislative Democrats, that shortchanges Oregon students, teachers and schools ([HB 5017](#))
- Flawed and partisan mandatory paid sick leave, passed by Democrats, that is expected to cost Oregon employers \$914 million when fully implemented and disproportionately affect Oregon's natural resource and agriculture industries ([SB 454](#); 2 House Democrats opposed)
- House Democrats killed 31 bills that House Republicans attempted to pull to the floor for a vote. These bills would've increased economic development and created family-wage jobs, provided critical tax relief to families, veterans and local employers, and increased transparency in government
- Tax increase proposals that would cap mortgage interest deductions at \$10,000 and enact a 50% cut to all itemized deductions, including home mortgage deductions for low-and middle-income Oregonians ([HB 2151](#), [HB 2136](#))
- Tax increase proposal to reduce charitable giving by capping itemized deductions at \$20,000 ([HB 2153](#))
- Partisan legislation, passed by Democrats, forcing Oregon employers to offer mandatory and costly retirement savings plans, placing another expensive government mandate on Oregonians while doing nothing to increase incomes across the state ([HB 2960](#); 2 House Democrats opposed)
- Flawed and unenforceable legislation, passed by Democrats, requiring background

checks for the private sale of firearms. House Democrats voted down two House Republican minority reports ([MR1](#), [MR2](#)) that would've kept firearms out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill by increasing support for law enforcement efforts to stop gun violence, increasing penalties for gun crimes, and investing \$44 million in mental health services

- Flawed and partisan legislation, passed by Democrats, that allows minors to withhold medical information in an explanation of benefits from their parents if they are the insurance policyholders. House Democrats killed a Republican alternative proposal that would've protected parental notification while allowing adult patients to shield medical information and also granting minors to do the same in cases of abuse ([HB 2758](#))
- Overreaching and partisan legislation granting the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries the ability to issue cease-and-desist orders to employers without due process. Although House Democrats voted it to the floor, House Republicans succeeded in sending it back to committee where it ultimately died ([HB 2386](#))

###