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NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSE PASSES BUDGET RECONCILIATION

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS PRESERVE SERVICES OREGONIANS RELY ON, MAKE TARGETED INVESTMENTS IN JOBS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SALEM- The Oregon House of Representatives took action this morning to re-balance the state budget, shoring up funding for critical services, and making targeted investments in economic development and education.

HB 5201A is the short-session budget reconciliation bill that makes adjustments to the budget for the 2013-2015 biennium.

“The annual session allows us more flexibility to keep the state budget balanced and respond to changing needs. We’ve done that, and then some,” said Rep. Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) the house Ways and Means Co-chair. “Our actions will ensure seniors and vulnerable Oregonians continue to have access to the services they need, help more people access education and workforce training, and make investments across the state that will continue putting Oregonians back to work.”

The re-balance process focused on ensuring that the Department of Human Services and Department of Corrections budgets were supplemented through fund shifts from other state agencies, without dramatically impacting those agencies’ ability to carry out their missions. These adjustments will allow the state’s two largest agencies to continue to meet the needs of the Oregonians who rely on their services.

The adjusted budget will include additional targeted investments in education and economic development initiatives, including support for manufacturing, investments in coastal port projects, and dredging funds to improve Oregon’s shipping channels. The legislature has devoted additional funding to help students access education through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and expanded Employment Related Day Care to allow low-income parents to access childcare while pursuing higher education or workforce training. Legislators also allocated additional support to help meet growing demand on college campuses.

Additionally, the short session effort continues to prioritize fiscally sound management and a focus on rebuilding state reserve funds. The state emergency fund will have a balance of \$30 million; the ending fund balance will be \$120 million; and budget writers set aside \$24 million in dedicated reserves for the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services.

“We delivered for Oregonians. We balanced the budget, we took steps to support workers and create jobs, and we made additional investments in education and other programs that matter most to Oregonians,” said House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland).

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