

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Budget Information Brief / 2001-6

History of Oregon Special Legislative Sessions

Since the regular session of 1971, the Oregon Legislative Assembly has convened in special session fourteen times. Each is summarized:

1971: NOVEMBER 16 - NOVEMBER 22

Referral of a proposed increase in the cigarette tax and results of (then-pending) Congressional action on the federal income tax base were expected to create a substantial deficit in the 1971-73 biennium. Other non-budgetary proposals were introduced, but not considered, on subjects including agricultural labor relations, chiropractors, and legislative operations. Three substantive committees were named. One Senate measure was introduced and passed; 26 House measures were introduced and 7 passed.

1974: JANUARY 24 - FEBRUARY 24*

*Recessed January 24-February 11

The session was to address problems that developed in certain business, industry and labor segments over interpretation of HB 2607 (Development and Consumer Protection Act) and impact of the energy crisis. Numerous non-budgetary proposals were introduced, but not considered, on subjects including local government boundary commissions, taxation on nonprofit homes for the elderly, public utility regulation, milk marketing and distribution, forest rehabilitation, and education. Fifteen substantive committees were named. Seventy-six Senate measures were introduced and 39 passed. The Governor vetoed one. Seventy-five House measures were introduced and 52 passed.

1975: SEPTEMBER 16

This session was called to deal with Chapter 786, Oregon Laws 1975 relating to the receipt

and dissemination of criminal record information, portions of which were determined by the Attorney General to be unconstitutional. No extraneous issues were introduced. Three substantive committees were named. One Senate and 2 House measures were introduced and passed.

1978: SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 9

The Governor believed Ballot Measure No. 6, a 1½ percent limitation on property tax modeled after the California plan, to be a wrong concept and presented an alternative for tax relief. Except for a few measures addressing non-budget issues, state tax policy was the subject of this special session. Three substantive committees were named. Two Senate measures were introduced and passed; 12 House measures were introduced and 9 passed.

1980: AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 8

Adverse impact on Oregon by a nation-wide recession with widespread unemployment and a decline in economic activity created an estimated \$204 million revenue shortfall. Legislative committees met in advance of the special session. Nearly all measures addressed financial administration of state government and local (boundary commissions) entities. Eight substantive committees were named. Twelve Senate measures were introduced and 9 passed; 14 House measures were introduced and 10 passed.

1981 FIRST SPECIAL: OCTOBER 24

This session addressed Assembly enactment of House Bills 2696 and 2733 and the Governor's veto of each notwithstanding the two years of work by a special commission to bring the bills forward. The measures would reorganize state court structures, and substantially increase court filing fees in order partially to underwrite state financing of court costs. No extraneous subject bills were introduced. Five substantive committees were named. Two Senate measures were introduced and 1 passed; 4 House measures were introduced and 3 passed.

1982 SECOND SPECIAL: JANUARY 18 - MARCH 1*
*Recessed February 10-15

Adverse impact on Oregon by nation-wide economic conditions with high interest rates, widespread unemployment, and a decline in economic activity created an estimated \$240 million revenue shortfall. During the special session, an additional \$100 million shortfall was identified. The shortfall was addressed by spending cuts and an income tax surcharge. Nearly all bills acted on by this special session addressed financial administration, tax policy, or unemployment compensation. Thirteen substantive committees were named. Twenty-eight Senate measures were introduced and 21 passed; 28 House measures were introduced and 16 passed.

1982 THIRD SPECIAL: JUNE 14

Continued unemployment and a further decline in economic activity resulted in an additional \$107 million revenue shortfall. A joint, bipartisan plan was developed with the Governor prior to this third special session, addressing the shortfall with management salary reductions. Only measures addressing unemployment compensation, tax policy and financial administration were considered and enacted. Seven substantive committees were named. Three Senate measures were introduced and 3 passed; 6 House measures were introduced and 2 passed.

1982 FOURTH SPECIAL: SEPTEMBER 3

Continued unemployment and a further decline in economic activity resulted in a \$91 million revenue shortfall beyond that previously addressed. A bipartisan plan was developed with the Governor prior to this fourth special session to transfer funds from SAIF. The net 1982 revenue shortfall represented a 16%

decline from close-of-session forecasts. Only measures addressing the Industrial Accident Fund, unemployment compensation, and state finances were considered and enacted. Five substantive committees were named. Four Senate measures were introduced and 1 passed; 4 House measures were introduced and 4 passed.

1983: SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 4

A bipartisan plan was drafted prior to session to address issues of property tax relief that had not been resolved during the regular session. Only a few non-budget measures were brought forward. Six substantive committees were named. Twelve Senate measures were introduced and 5 passed; 6 House measures were introduced and 4 passed.

1990: MAY 7

This session addressed Oregon's workers' compensation system with a plan prepared in advance by a panel from the Governor's office and legislators. No extraneous issues were introduced. Two substantive committees were named; three measures were introduced and passed.

1992: JULY 1 - JULY 3

The Governor brought new tax proposals to the Legislative Assembly. Two substantive committees were named. Out of eight introduced measures, only the sine die resolution passed.

1995 FIRST SPECIAL: JULY 28 - AUGUST 3

Authorizing and funding construction of the South/North light rail project was the reason for this session. Two substantive committees were named. Two Senate measures were introduced and 1 passed; 4 House measures were introduced and 1 passed. The single substantive bill, SB 1156, was declared unconstitutional in *McIntire v. Forbes* 322 OR.426 (1996).

1996 SECOND SPECIAL: FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 2

Issues involving passage of Measure 11 and SB 1145, a projected shortfall in lottery revenues, and invalidation of portions of the light rail-rural transportation bill passed in the prior special session prompted the Governor to call this second special session. A few measures on other subjects were considered and enacted.

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Fourteen Senate measures were introduced and

10 passed; 13 House measures were introduced
and 12 passed.

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