

## Transient Lodging Tax work group

August 31, 2016  
1:30 P.M.

Hearing Room 343

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Nancy Nathanson Danielle Cowan, Executive  
Rep. John Davis Director, Clackamas  
Sen. Hansell County Tourism &  
Cultural Affairs (on  
phone)  
Carolyn McCormick, Washington  
County Visitor  
Association  
Mary Pat Parker, Visit Corvallis  
Alice Trindle, Eastern Oregon  
Visitors Association  
Alana Hughson, CEO, Central  
Oregon Visitors  
Association;  
Scott Youngblood, Embassy  
Suites Tigard; Member,  
Oregon Tourism  
Commission  
Bob Hackett, Oregon  
Shakespeare Festival –  
Ashland, OR (on phone)  
Jeff Kohnstamm, Timberline  
Lodge - Mt. Hood  
Jeff Miller, Travel Portland

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paul Warner, Legislative Revenue Officer  
Mazen Malik, Senior Economist, LRO  
Corinne Gavette LRO Office Manager

**ISSUES:** Feasibility of exempting homeless for transient lodging tax  
DOR sharing data with local governments  
OTC reporting, and demonstrated return on investment

Paul Warner, LRO opened the meeting.

Rep. Nathanson proposed that the group state their points of view at this meeting. She proposed an outline for the meeting agenda items.

- I. Mazen Malik gave an overview of last meeting's items and discussions.
- II. Jill Grey, Leg coordinator, and Dawn Meyers of DHS gave an overview of the homeless definition, and population. Says it is difficult to get an exact number of homeless people, due to many different circumstances.

The discussion on this topic covered the demands on the hotelier, the cost of getting vouchers out to the homeless. The DHS folks did not have data on how much the voucher system cost. LRO will follow up with the action agencies on the actual costs of this.

1. Consensus was that the group thinks the administrative costs are too high for the amount saved to the homeless.
2. Challenges in Identifying homeless individuals
3. Community action agencies and how they give out vouchers.

Rep. Parrish gave testimony concerning hoteliers and identifying homeless.

III. Dept. of Revenue staff explained that ORS 320 and 340 says they cannot share information with local governments. The disclosure law must be changed in order for them to do so. Use of zip codes in collecting the tax would expedite payments to counties/cities and enforcement of the law.

1. State change to allow data sharing
2. Compliance and enforcement of new law.

IV. Scott West, Jeff Hampton from Travel Oregon outlined the OTC strategic plan and budget. The new requirements by HB 4146 will be included in the new report that will be coming out October 1st every year to LFO.

Next scheduled meeting is proposed for Tuesday, Sept 20th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm.

Jeff Kohnstamm distributed some material about hotel industry data.