



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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Oregon House Re-Authorizes Effort to Improve Government Efficiency

Rep. Nathanson applauds continuation of task force to create a more effective and cost-efficient government

SALEM – The Oregon House today passed House Bill 2855, sponsored by Representative Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene), which re-authorizes the Government Efficiency Task Force. The task force is a collaborative effort between state and local government to make government more effective and cost-efficient.

“This is about saving money and improving service,” said Rep. Nathanson. “Complaining doesn’t fix anything; rolling up our sleeves is what it takes. This group worked together across jurisdictional lines to reduce red tape, save money, untangle bureaucracy and improve public services for Oregonians.”

Representative Nathanson championed legislation in the 2009 session that created the Government Efficiency Task Force. Officials from state and local governments and organizations worked together to identify opportunities to improve processes, fix problems, and eliminate burdensome or duplicative procedures.

The task force approved nearly two dozen practical recommendations. Some will be accomplished through administrative actions, and others require statutory change. A number of bills were introduced this session based on the recommendations of the task force. The legislature has already passed three of the bills and several more are working through the process.

“This task force was very successful at breaking down barriers between different organizations and different entities,” said Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle, a member of the task force. “I think we’ve demonstrated it’s safe to work together. That’s something we have to apply in government from top to bottom and from small to large.”

The task force continues its work reviewing shared services in natural resources, education, elections, human services, and criminal justice. They will submit a final report with recommendations to the legislation by October 1, 2012.

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