
OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

February 2010
Accomplishments



Compiled by the Senate Majority Office

**OREGON SENATE
DEMOCRATS**
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Getting Oregonians Back to Work

SB 1017 - Access to Business Capital Act for Oregon businesses

Will help spur job creation by giving small businesses better access to the capital they need to grow and create jobs. SB 1017 changes some qualifications to streamline access to the Oregon Business Development Fund and the Oregon Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund.

HB 5100 - Help with day care for working parents

Includes \$12.8 million for Employment Related Day Care allowing parents of 5,500 Oregon children from 2,900 families to continue to work. Additionally, it protects the jobs of more than 1,500 day care workers who care for these children.

HB 3698 - Building Opportunities for Oregon Small Business Today Fund

Creates the BOOST Fund to increase the availability of working capital to Oregon small businesses that create jobs and hire Oregonians to fill them.

HB 3655- Helping Oregonians stay afloat

Provides an immediate six week extension in unemployment insurance benefits for out-of-work Oregonians. This will help nearly 19,000 Oregonians make ends meet and put dollars in to their local communities while they search for employment.

SB 1045 - Eliminating unreasonable barriers to employment

The Job Applicant Fairness Act (JAFA), will help Oregonians get back to work by allowing them to compete for jobs based on their qualifications, not their credit history. The bill restricts job related credit checks for most industries, eliminating unreasonable barriers to employment for Oregon's job-seekers.

SB 5563 & 5564 - Approved construction projects that create hundreds of jobs

Authorizes bond sales to fund the \$65 million renovation of an Oregon Department of Transportation building and \$75 million for a new 451-bed dormitory on the University of Oregon's East Campus. Combined the two projects will create approximately 600 jobs.

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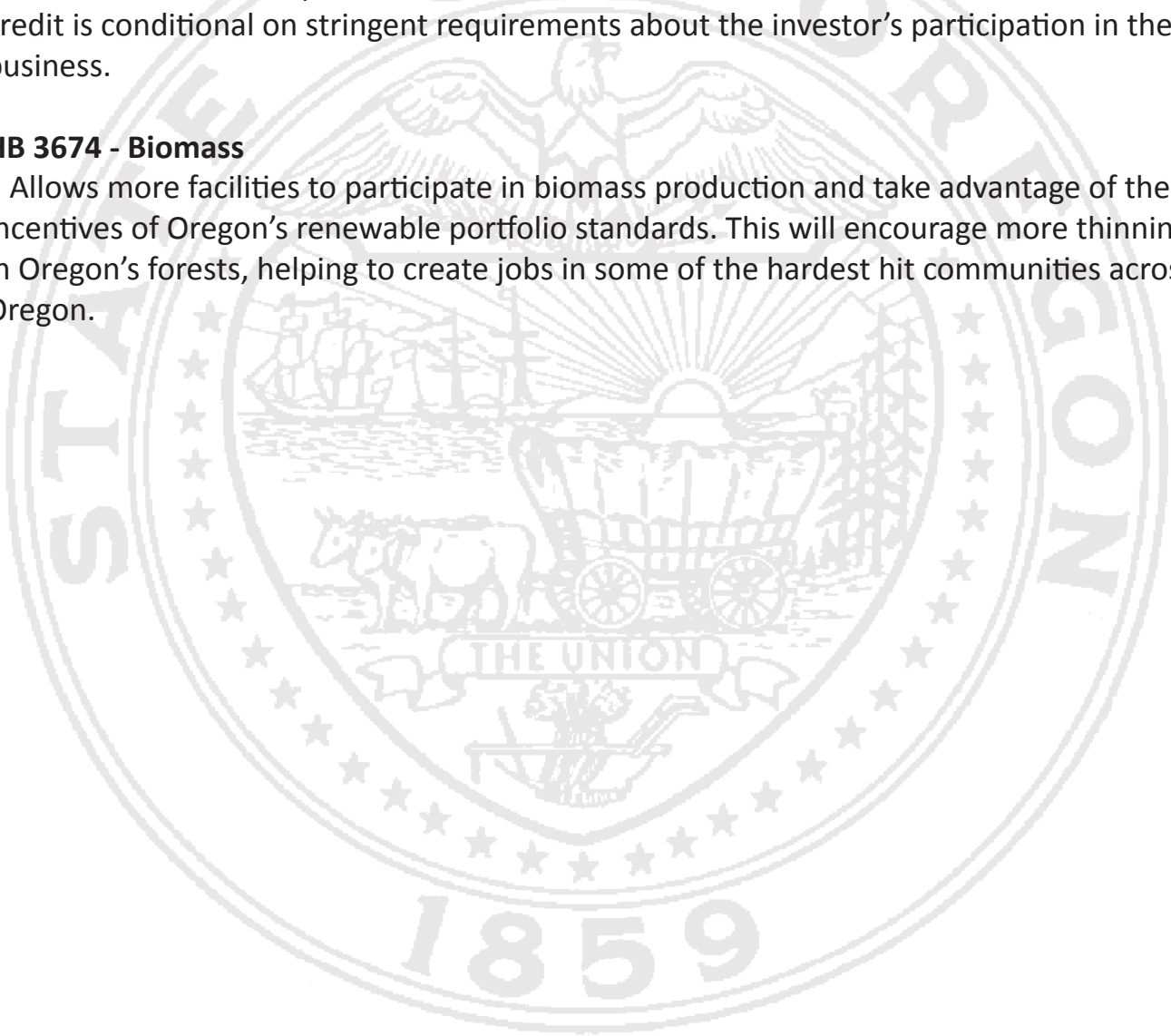
Getting Oregonians Back to Work

HB 3627 - Oregon Entrepreneur Investment Act

Allows workers who receive a severance package to deduct that severance pay from their income taxes in order to invest in a new or existing small business. People who claim this credit are required to maintain their investment for at least 24 months and the credit is conditional on stringent requirements about the investor's participation in the business.

HB 3674 - Biomass

Allows more facilities to participate in biomass production and take advantage of the incentives of Oregon's renewable portfolio standards. This will encourage more thinning in Oregon's forests, helping to create jobs in some of the hardest hit communities across Oregon.



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Supporting Small Businesses

SB 1017 - Access to Business Capital Act for Oregon Businesses

Gives small businesses better access to the capital they need through the Oregon Business Development Fund and the Oregon Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund. This will help create and expand small businesses across the state.

HB 3698 - Building Opportunities for Oregon Small Business Today (BOOST) Fund

Creates the BOOST Fund to increase the availability of working capital to Oregon small businesses that create jobs and hire Oregonians to fill them.

SB 1003 - Increasing access to affordable health care

Gives small businesses and their employees increased access to affordable health insurance by modifying requirements for association health plans. Such plans are used by many general contractors and other small businesses to offer health care to their workers.

HB 5100 - Protecting Oregon's agricultural economy

Includes \$225,000 to battle an invasive fruit fly infestation in Oregon's fruit industry. State experts estimate these fruit flies could damage 20 percent of the state's fruit crop and deal a severe blow to the state's agricultural economy.

HB 3627 - Oregon Entrepreneur Investment Act

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HB 3700 - Increasing incentives for local governments to invest in local communities

Allows the investment of more than \$250,000 in a local credit union by the State Treasurer, school districts and local governments. This bill should spur investment in local communities, helping to relieve a severe shortage of capital that can be loaned to local businesses ready to expand.

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Supporting Small Businesses

HB 3609 - Helping businesses in distressed enterprise zones

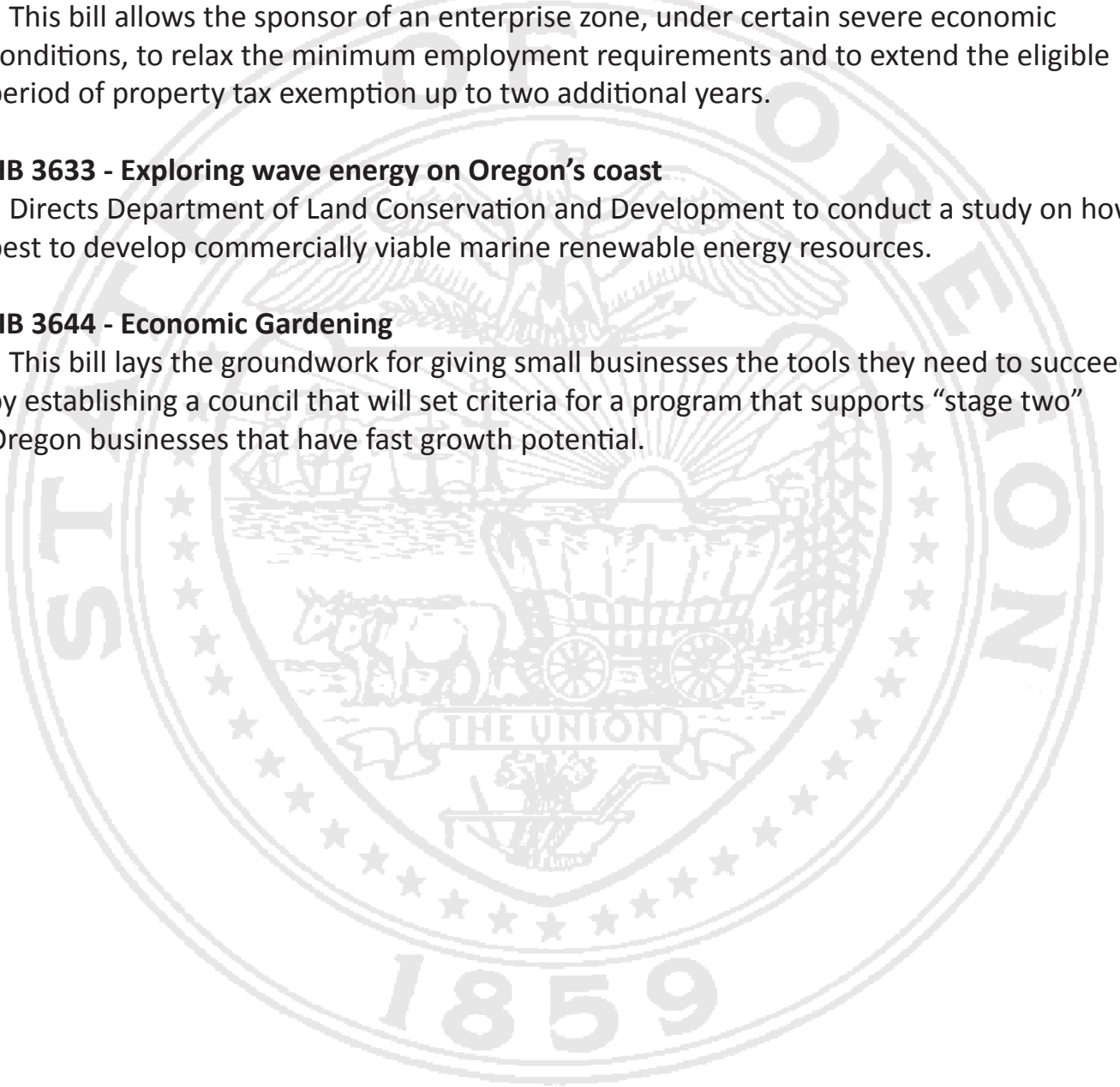
This bill allows the sponsor of an enterprise zone, under certain severe economic conditions, to relax the minimum employment requirements and to extend the eligible period of property tax exemption up to two additional years.

HB 3633 - Exploring wave energy on Oregon's coast

Directs Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct a study on how best to develop commercially viable marine renewable energy resources.

HB 3644 - Economic Gardening

This bill lays the groundwork for giving small businesses the tools they need to succeed by establishing a council that will set criteria for a program that supports "stage two" Oregon businesses that have fast growth potential.



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Helping Oregon Families

HB 3655- Helping Oregonians stay afloat

Provides an immediate six week extension in unemployment insurance benefits for out-of-work Oregonians. This will help nearly 19,000 Oregonians make ends meet and put dollars into their local communities while they search for employment.

HB 5100 - Help with day care for working parents

Includes \$12.8 million for Employment Related Day Care, allowing parents of 5,500 Oregon children from 2,900 families to continue to work. ERDC assistance allows parents to avoid having to choose between work or staying home to care for their children. Additionally, it protects the jobs of more than 1,500 day care workers who care for those children.

HB 5100 - Help for Oregon college students

Increases access to higher education by providing \$9.7 million for Oregon Opportunity Grants in the current academic year and sets aside \$5 million for future enrollment growth. Oregon Opportunity Grants are paid directly to students to help offset the cost of a college education.

HB 3702 - Opportunity Grants for part-time students

Allows the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to award grants to part time students under some circumstances.

SB 1003 - Increasing access to affordable health care

Gives small businesses and their employees increased access to affordable health insurance by modifying requirements for association health plans. Such plans are used by many general contractors and other small businesses to offer health care to their workers.

SB 991 - Safe Families Program

Supports at-risk families by providing them with temporary respite care for their children during times of crisis. This works to reduce stress on parents, allowing them to deal with housing, employment and other issues without putting the children at risk of neglect.

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Helping Oregon Families

HB 3696 - Helping veterans access higher education opportunities

Allows some funds in the Veterans' Small Business Repair Loan Fund to be used to finance educational benefits for veterans.

HB 3640 - Giving low-income Oregonians a break on property taxes

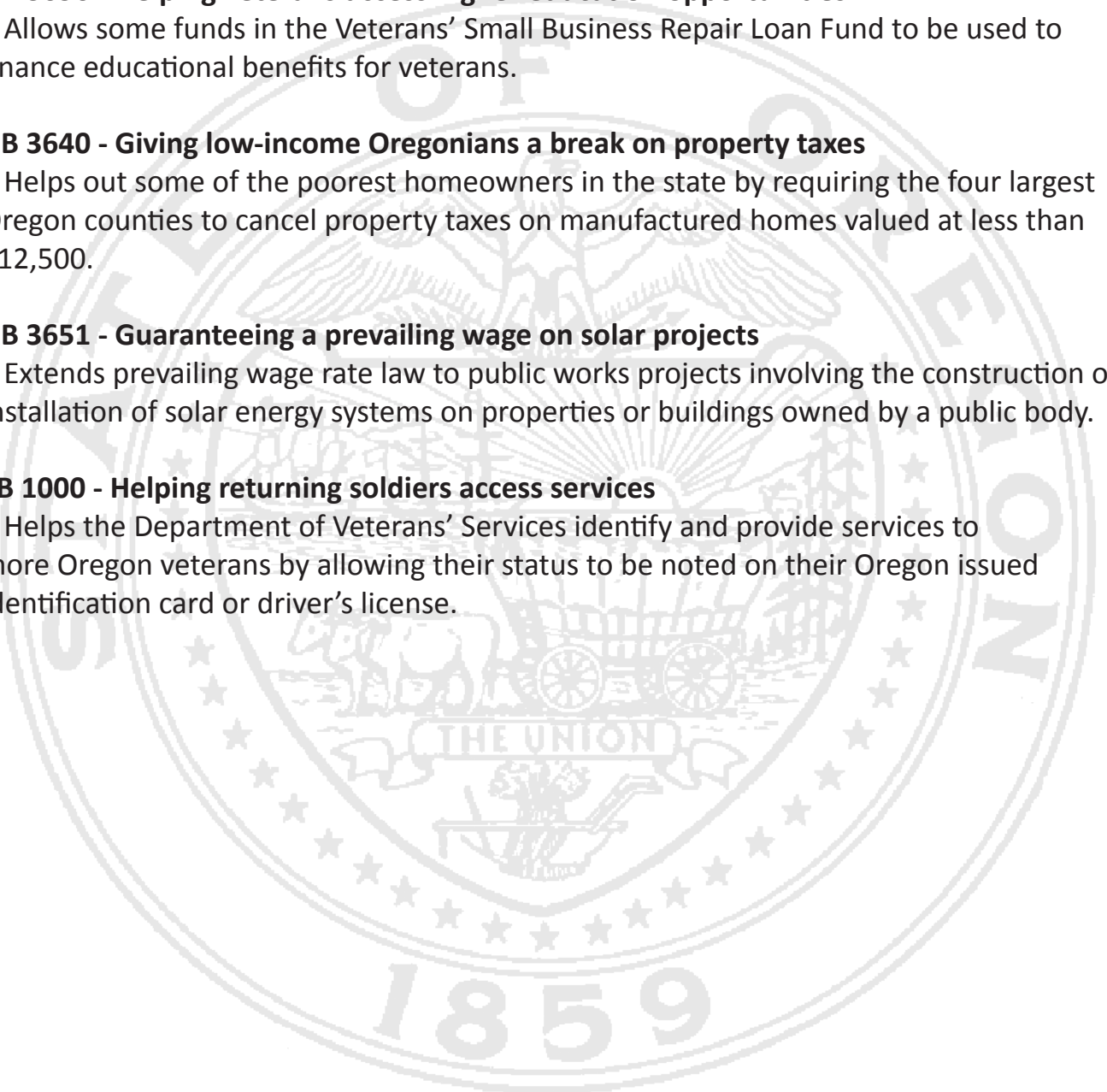
Helps out some of the poorest homeowners in the state by requiring the four largest Oregon counties to cancel property taxes on manufactured homes valued at less than \$12,500.

HB 3651 - Guaranteeing a prevailing wage on solar projects

Extends prevailing wage rate law to public works projects involving the construction or installation of solar energy systems on properties or buildings owned by a public body.

SB 1000 - Helping returning soldiers access services

Helps the Department of Veterans' Services identify and provide services to more Oregon veterans by allowing their status to be noted on their Oregon issued identification card or driver's license.



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Taking Care of Our Children

SB 5565 - Protected funding for public schools

The re-balanced state budget makes good on the Legislature's pledge in 2009 to provide \$6 billion in funding for Oregon's public schools. This money provides certainty to school districts, allowing them to plan a full school year for Oregon's children.

HB 5100 - Early Head Start program

Provides \$1 million for Oregon's Early Head Start program to supplement existing resources and match federal funds. This program prepares 2 and 3 year-olds from low-income families for kindergarten and improves their chances to success in school and later in life .

SB 991 - Safe Families Program

Supports at-risk families by providing them with temporary respite care for their children during times of crisis. This works to reduce stress on parents, allowing them to deal with housing, employment and other issues without putting the children at risk of neglect.

HB 3664 - Health care coverage for young adults leaving foster care

Allows young adults up to 21 years old who are leaving the state's foster care system to continue receiving health care benefits. Currently, children lose their coverage once they reach the age of 19. These young adults are highly likely to have trouble accessing health care once they leave the foster care system.

HB 3660 - Virtual schools

Takes steps towards ensuring that all students have the opportunity to receive an excellent education, in whatever setting or medium. Directs State Board to study the governance and finance model of online education and make recommendations.

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Taking Care of Our Children

HB 3626 - Vision screening for Oregon children

Directs the Department of Education to establish pilot programs that provide vision screenings to students. Early detection of vision problems can provide children with greater opportunities for educational success.

HB 3663 - Eye care for minors

Allows minors to receive eye care in a timely fashion, by letting optometrists treat minors over age 15 without their parents consent with certain exceptions.

HB 3688 - Banning “signing bonuses” to parents

Closes a loophole and prevents “signing bonuses” for enrolling in certain schools, ensuring students can choose their school on its merits and not economic incentives.

SB 1006 & 1033 - Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in schools

Requires each school, community college, or state institution of higher education to have at least one automated external defibrillator on campus, thus increasing the chance the life of a person experiencing cardiac arrest can be saved.

SJR 50 & HB 3628 - Chinese Language

Mandarin Chinese is by far the most-spoken first language in the world, but it is only the 8th most popular language to study in the United States. SJR 50 encourages teaching the Chinese language in Oregon schools. HB 3628 authorizes the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with another nation or another nation’s public agency to ensure that instruction of Mandarin Chinese is available to public school students by facilitating placement of teachers who speak Mandarin Chinese fluently.

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Health Care & Public Health

SB 1003 - Increasing access to affordable health care

Gives small businesses and their employees increased access to affordable health insurance by modifying requirements for association health plans. Such plans are used by many general contractors and other small businesses to offer health care to their workers.

HB 3631 - Protecting victims of sexual assault

Prohibits insurers from discriminating against victims of sexual violence by treating that victimization, or physical or mental injuries sustained as a result of that victimization, as a preexisting condition that would exclude or limit coverage.

HB 3664 - Health care coverage for young adults leaving foster care

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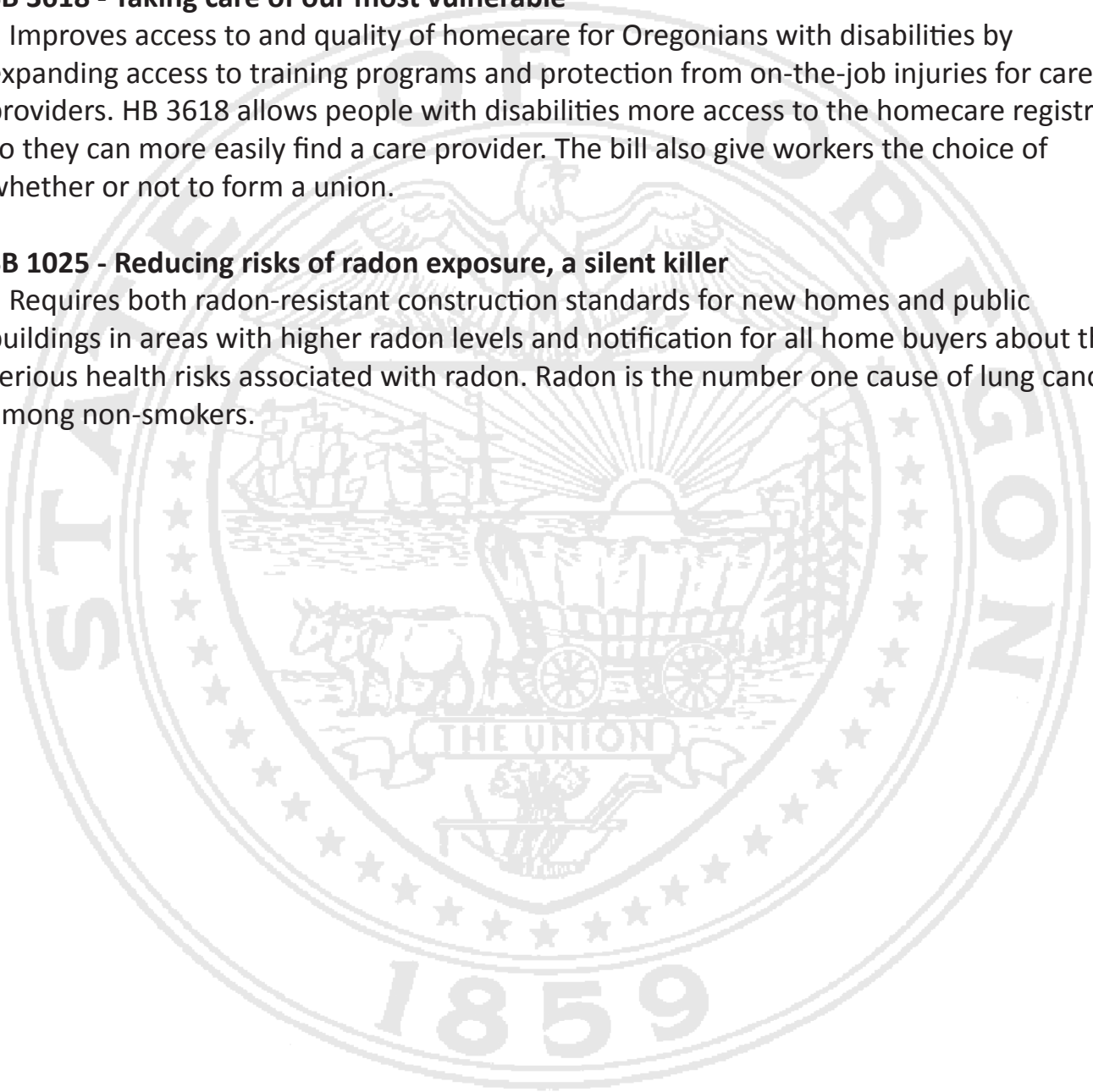
Health Care & Public Health

SB 3618 - Taking care of our most vulnerable

Improves access to and quality of homecare for Oregonians with disabilities by expanding access to training programs and protection from on-the-job injuries for care providers. HB 3618 allows people with disabilities more access to the homecare registry so they can more easily find a care provider. The bill also give workers the choice of whether or not to form a union.

SB 1025 - Reducing risks of radon exposure, a silent killer

Requires both radon-resistant construction standards for new homes and public buildings in areas with higher radon levels and notification for all home buyers about the serious health risks associated with radon. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.



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Environment

SB 1059 - Setting the stage for tackling transportation & greenhouse gas reductions

Will help governments make decisions about how to develop smart, sustainable, and cost-effective transportation systems by laying the groundwork for communities to plan for future population and employment growth while reducing greenhouse gases.

HB 3680 - Reforming the state's Business Energy Tax Credit

Protects developing green industries, allows Oregon to continue expanding the renewable energy system, and increases the effectiveness and efficiency of the BETC program while reducing the impact to the state's general fund.

SB 1025 - Reducing risks of radon exposure, a silent killer

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HB 3613 - Protecting Oregon's coast, extending the offshore drilling ban

Extends the prohibition on leasing land in the Territorial Sea for purposes of exploration, development or production of oil, gas or sulfur for another decade.

HB 5100 - Protecting Oregon's agricultural industries against invasive species

Includes \$225,000 to battle an invasive fruit fly infestation in Oregon's fruit industry. State experts estimate these invasive species could damage 20 percent of the state's fruit crop and deal a severe blow to the state's agricultural economy.

HB 3633 - Exploring wave energy on Oregon's coast

Directs Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct a study on how best to develop commercially viable marine renewable energy resources.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Environment

HB 3674 - Expanding Oregon's biomass industry

Allows more facilities to participate in biomass production and take advantage of the incentives of Oregon's renewable portfolio standards. This will both create more jobs in our forests and reduce the risk of forest fires.

HB 3675 - Energy Efficient Building Upgrades

Speeds up implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Technology (EEAST) loan program, which allows qualified property owners to access long-term loans for energy efficiency upgrades and pay them back on their utility bill.

HB 3606 - Improving Oregon's E-Waste program

Modifies Oregon's E-waste recycling law to ensure more television manufacturers participate and less televisions go to the landfill.

HB 3649 - Encouraging low impact hydroelectric power development

Allows more energy production facilities that use low impact hydroelectric power to comply with Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). In turn, this creates additional renewable resource options for utilities from which to purchase energy.

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Public Safety

SB 1007 - Ending resentencing hearings for violent criminals and sex offenders

Clarifies that violent criminals cannot be granted 10 percent additional earned time. The bill automatically suspended resentencing hearings, imposed a “time-out” on additional earned time, expanded the list of ineligible crimes, and calls for an independent audit of the program so the Legislature can adjust accordingly next session.

HB 5100 - Increased funding for Public Safety

House Bill 5100 includes the use of \$706,000 in dedicated funds for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to fund two additional 16-week basic training academies for law enforcement officers. This will expedite the placement of police officers throughout Oregon communities and on state highways.

HB 5100 - Increased funding for investigating fraud, sexual assault, and drug trafficking

The Legislature approved budget adjustments to allow the Department of Justice to increase investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking organizations and gang violence, mortgage fraud investigations, Internet Crimes Against Children, and the federal Violence Against Women Act. Additionally, the bill increases funds to nonprofits and other groups to provide services to victims of sexual assault and other person crimes.

SB 999 - Expanding availability of diversion for Oregon’s veterans

Gives district attorneys greater discretion to offer diversion to veterans under certain circumstances, taking into account the best interest of the veteran, their family, and the community at large. Examples of diversion include alcohol and drug treatment or anger management programs.

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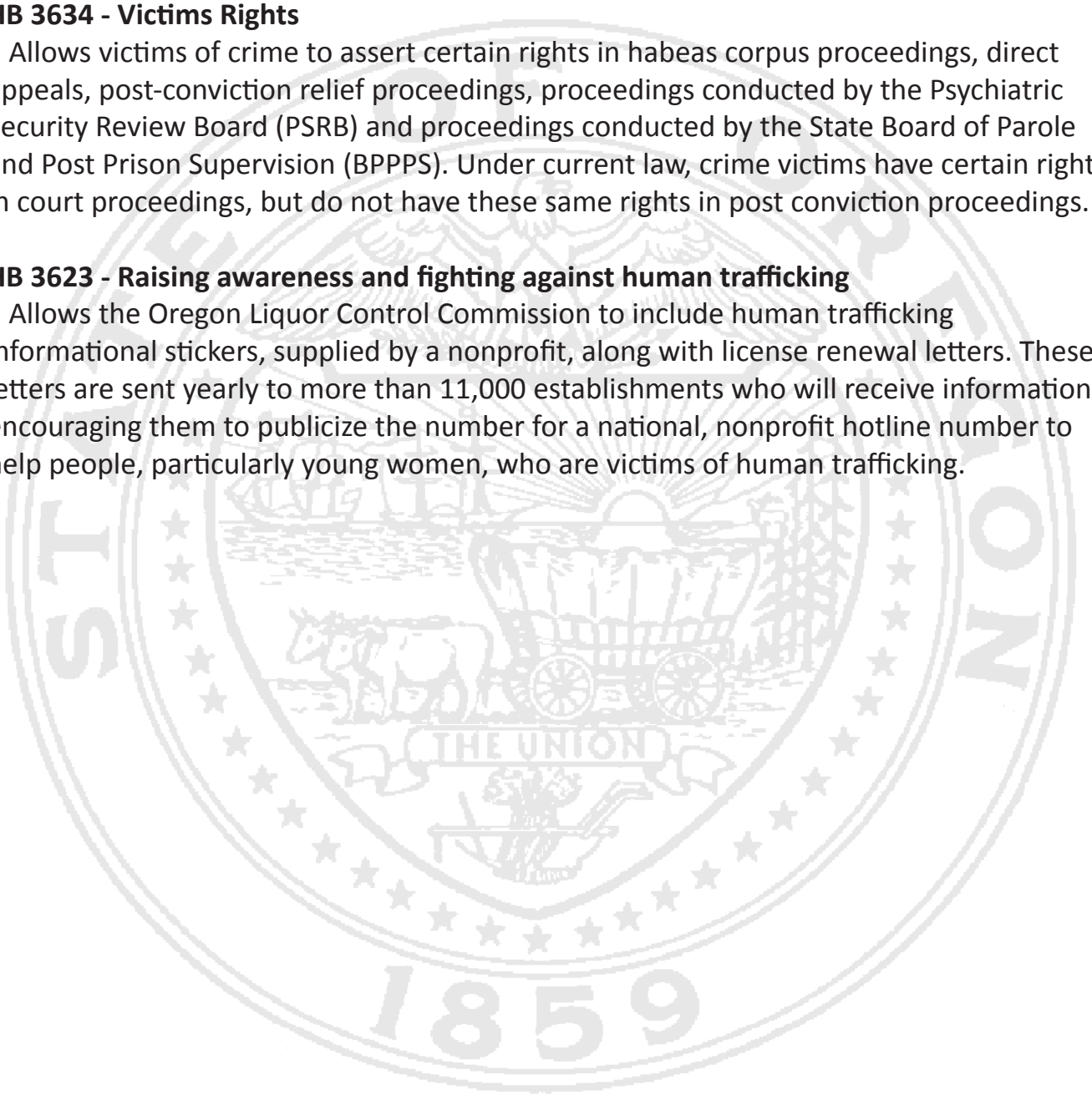
Public Safety

HB 3634 - Victims Rights

Allows victims of crime to assert certain rights in habeas corpus proceedings, direct appeals, post-conviction relief proceedings, proceedings conducted by the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) and proceedings conducted by the State Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision (BPPPS). Under current law, crime victims have certain rights in court proceedings, but do not have these same rights in post conviction proceedings.

HB 3623 - Raising awareness and fighting against human trafficking

Allows the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to include human trafficking informational stickers, supplied by a nonprofit, along with license renewal letters. These letters are sent yearly to more than 11,000 establishments who will receive information encouraging them to publicize the number for a national, nonprofit hotline number to help people, particularly young women, who are victims of human trafficking.



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Consumer Protection

HB 3706 - Giving consumers rights against unscrupulous lenders and banks

Broadens the state's anti-fraud laws so that both private citizens and the Attorney General can sue lenders for misrepresentations, as they can do with most other businesses in Oregon. Under the Unlawful Trade Practices Act, consumer finance lenders, banks and trusts, credit unions, and mortgage lenders would no longer be exempt from state legal action.

HB 3610 - Foreclosure assistance for Oregonians

Requires lenders to give homeowners more information regarding their request for a loan modification and longer notice if their modification isn't approved and foreclosure is going to occur.

HB 3624 - Appraisal management companies regulation

Establishes standards for Appraisal Management Companies and ensures that they are all subject to the same rules and regulation by requiring them to register with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). This will ensure consistency and provide protection to Oregon consumers.

HB 3656 - Expanding relief for Oregonians with 80/20 mortgages

Prevents lenders or their affiliates from pursuing further action against many second mortgages once the home has already been foreclosed and sold. The bill expands the number of foreclosed homeowners who will be protected from paying any additional balance due after foreclosure.

HB 3689 - Protects homeowners from unlicensed contractors

Prevents unlicensed contractors from filing liens against property that they work on and allows homeowners to find out if their contractor is licensed by asking the Construction Contractors Board.

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Consumer Protection

SB 1002 - Protecting Oregonians planning for retirement

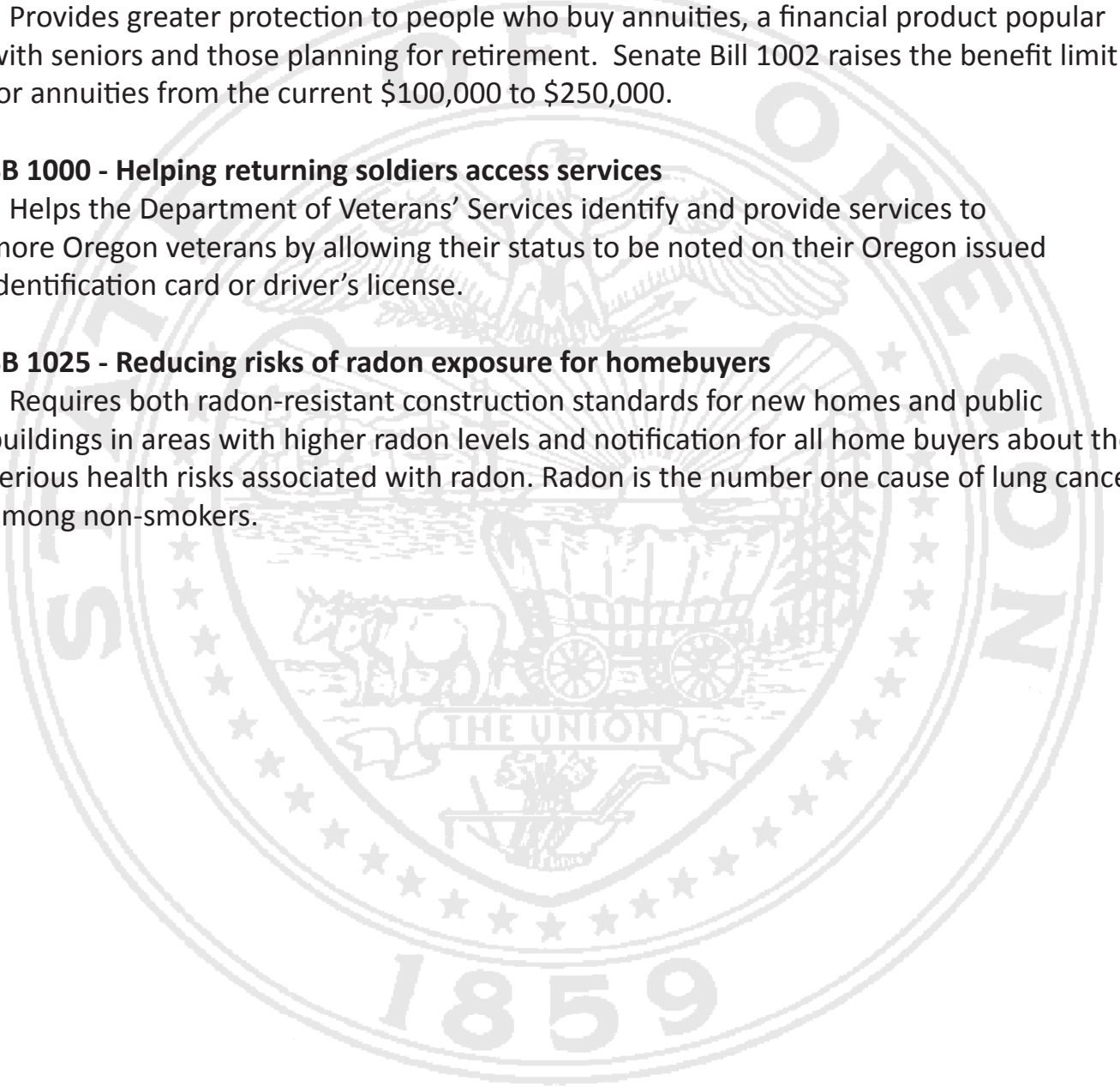
Provides greater protection to people who buy annuities, a financial product popular with seniors and those planning for retirement. Senate Bill 1002 raises the benefit limit for annuities from the current \$100,000 to \$250,000.

SB 1000 - Helping returning soldiers access services

Helps the Department of Veterans' Services identify and provide services to more Oregon veterans by allowing their status to be noted on their Oregon issued identification card or driver's license.

SB 1025 - Reducing risks of radon exposure for homebuyers

Requires both radon-resistant construction standards for new homes and public buildings in areas with higher radon levels and notification for all home buyers about the serious health risks associated with radon. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Accountable and Transparent Government

SJR 41 - Requiring the Legislature to meet every year

Asks the voters to decide whether the Legislature should be required to meet yearly and limits the regular session to 160 days in odd-numbered years and 35 days in even-numbered years. This change will modernize state government to make it more responsive to Oregonians' needs and increase financial accountability over the state budget.

HB 3680 - Reforming the state's Business Energy Tax Credit

Reins in spiralling costs of the state's BETC while protecting developing green industries, increasing their effectiveness and efficiency, and reducing their impact on the state's general fund.

HB 3646 - Build America Bonds

Stretches dollars for both government and non-profits by using alternate bonds for some projects. The biggest initial savings – estimated at \$100 million over 20 years – will come by facilitating the use of lower-cost Build America Bonds for Oregon projects that will be financed during the next several months.

SB 996 - Protecting whistleblowers from retaliation

Broadens options for workers to point out fraud and abuse in the public sector by expanding protections for public sector employees who want to report waste, fraud, or safety hazards.

SB 1014 - Streamlining state boards and commissions

Saves taxpayer dollars by modernizing and simplifying Oregon boards and commissions that provide services and oversight on state operations. Allows them to meet by telephone if appropriate.

SB 1062 - Maintaining the integrity of Oregon's ballots

Resolves questions about the use of sample ballots during elections by setting high standards for how campaigns can use imitation ballots during election season.

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Accountable and Transparent Government

Override of SB 897 Veto - Protecting transparency in PERS

Protects fairness and encourages accountability in Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) by requiring data verification upon request by an employee. This will protect the state from overpaying and give workers peace of mind when planning for their retirement. The bill also allows more PERS retirees to purchase health insurance benefits, allows all eligible service to be credited towards retirement, and allows a retiree to occupy the Board position designated for a PERS member.

SJR 48 - GO Bonds

This constitutional amendment authorizes lowest cost borrowing for State's real and personal property projects. If the voters approve this change, it will likely save Oregon millions of dollars by helping the state secure lower interest rates when borrowing money for financing state infrastructure.

