



Oregon Senate Democrats

New Laws Going into Effect New Year's Day 2016

New laws include Paid Sick Leave, equal pay protections, expansion of birth control access, and keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers

As 2015 quickly comes to an end, many of us are taking a moment to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and thinking of the challenges and opportunities ahead. The same is true for Senate Democrats and the Legislature, and this time of year we reflect on the good things we've done.

As Oregon's economy grows and recovers from unprecedented challenges, Senate Democrats worked to move Oregon forward. We delivered an impressive list of [2015 Accomplishments](#) that put Oregon families and small businesses first, reinvested in public education, improved job creation, and made college more affordable and accessible.

While many bills passed during the 2015 Legislative Session have already become law, **there are some important new laws that will take effect on January 1st.**

Here are just a few of the highlights:

[SB 454](#): Paid Sick Time

With passage of Senate Bill 454, Oregon joins a growing number of states requiring a statewide paid sick time policy for workers. SB 454 requires most employers having ten or more employees to implement a sick time policy allowing an employee to earn, accrue, donate or use at least 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally, the bill requires most employers who employ fewer than ten employees to implement an unpaid sick time policy. This legislative victory will ensure that Oregon workers don't have to choose between their health—or the health of their children—and their livelihood.

[HB 2007](#): Equal Pay for Equal Work

House Bill 2007 protects workers by prohibiting retaliation against employees who discuss wages amongst themselves. Prior to passage, workers in Oregon could face consequences for sharing their wage or salary rate with their coworkers, or for voicing their right to a fair wage. Threat of retaliation has been cited as an impediment to progress on equal pay for equal work for Oregon women.

[HB 3343](#) & [HB 2879](#): Improving Access to Birth Control

House Bill 3343 makes Oregon the first state in the nation to ensure that women can access a full 12-month supply of birth control, by requiring insurance companies to cover the cost up

front rather than across multiple trips to the pharmacy. Along with House Bill 2879 that will allow women to obtain birth control directly from pharmacists without a doctor's visit, these bills will improve women's access and agency in using birth control, helping to support consistent birth control use, and driving down unintended pregnancies in Oregon.

SB 525: Preventing Gun Violence in Domestic Violence Situations

Senate Bill 525 will protect families by bringing Oregon laws into alignment with federal laws prohibiting gun possession for perpetrators of domestic violence. The bill prohibits the possession of a firearm or ammunition by most people who are subject to a restraining order or who have been convicted of certain misdemeanor crimes involving domestic violence.

HB 3025: Bans Consideration of Criminal History before Job Interview

House Bill 3025, "Ban the Box," will help Oregonians with prior arrests or convictions seek gainful employment. The bill creates an unlawful employment practice that bans employers from excluding consideration of a job applicant from an initial interview solely because of a past criminal conviction. The bill does not prevent an employer from considering an applicant's criminal history in making their hiring decisions.

SB 552: Domestic Worker Protections

Domestic workers are a crucial workforce comprised primarily of women, and particularly women of color. They provide in-home services such as childcare, cooking, and housekeeping. Senate Bill 552 establishes workplace protections for primarily domestic workers who live in the home they serve, and classifies violations as unlawful employment practices. The protections for domestic workers in SB 552 include overtime pay, periods of rest, paid vacation time, and freedom from harassment.

HB 3059: Protecting the Health & Safety of Live Entertainers

Live entertainers working in Oregon include dancers, musicians, comedians, actors, and athletes, many of whom work as independent contractors. Due to a lack of whistleblower and other labor protections, many of these workers are particularly reluctant to complain about working conditions or unlawful practices occurring in venues. House Bill 3059 is a simple, first step to provide some protection for these workers. It requires the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to publish a poster detailing the rights of independent contractors and employees who perform live entertainment, and run a toll-free hotline to field inquiries and complaints related to employment in this industry.

SB 185: Social Media Rules at Work

Senate Bill 185 makes it illegal for an employer to require a person to have a social media account as a condition of their employment, or to require the employer to advertise on the employee's account.

SB 468: Recovering Unpaid Wages & Holding Employers Accountable

After a worker makes a complaint that they are not being paid wages they are owed, and the Bureau of Labor and Industries conducts an investigation and orders the employer to pay the

wages, some particularly bad employers move assets or change business names to avoid paying wages owed. Senate Bill 468 will help workers by allowing the Bureau to issue a garnishment order to more quickly collect wages owed to an employee after the employer has had a chance to appeal the agency's decision.

SB 411: Personal Injury Protection and Stacking in Car Insurance Policies

Senate Bill 411 will put injured drivers' needs ahead of insurance companies by changing state laws on uninsured motorist coverage and personal injury protection coverage. There are two main provisions in SB 411: the first allows injured motorists to add their uninsured motorist coverage on top of the at-fault driver's liability coverage so injured consumers get the coverage they paid for with their premium. The second provision addresses Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage. Currently, a policyholder's PIP coverage is repaid to the insurance company before the injured party is paid total damages. SB 411 allows the injured motorist to recover their total damages first.

SB 574: Oversight and Licensure for Restoration Companies

Senate Bill 574 puts restoration work resulting from disaster, such as clean-up from smoke or water damage, under the licensing authority of the state's Construction Contractors Board (CCB), providing needed oversight of those restoration companies that use predatory tactics on consumers. By requiring CCB licensure, SB 574 will ensure that all restoration companies are bonded and insured, conform to contract language requirements aimed at protecting consumers, and participate in contract dispute resolution.

SB 482: Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership

Senate Bill 482 creates the Pacific Northwest Manufacturing Partnership Advisory Committee (PNMP), a consortium dedicated to accelerating the resurgence of manufacturing in the Northwest. The PNMP will sit within Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency. Staff in the department will focus on facilitating regional collaboration amongst the manufacturing sector by working with relevant education and research institutions.

HB 2734: Cleaning up Polluted Sites for Business Development

House Bill 2734 gives local governments the ability to create land bank authorities, an innovative tool to clean up brownfields—former industrial or commercial sites where development is hindered by real or perceived environmental contamination. Left untouched, these properties pose threats to human health and the environment while also undermining economic development and failing to contribute to the local and state economies. The 2015 Legislature also allocated \$7 million for these efforts to help cities and counties make better use of their land.

SB 320: Supporting Small Home Businesses

Currently, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requires anyone who would like to sell baked goods made in his or her home kitchen to meet specific requirements, and obtain a domestic kitchen license. Senate Bill 320 allows small-scale operations to prepare and sell baked goods without ODA licensure. These food entrepreneurs throughout Oregon will still be

required to label and safely handle their products, but will be able to do so with fewer burdens on their budding businesses.

SB 759: Helping Victims of Campus Sexual Assault

In response to pressing concerns about how sexual assaults cases are handled on college campuses, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 759. SB 759 requires higher education institutions in Oregon to adopt and make public a written protocol for responding to a sexual assault involving a student, faculty, or staff member. The protocol must include information on victims' rights, and resources on- and off-campus. In addition, a law that has already taken effect—House Bill 3476—ensures that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking can seek support services without compromising their privacy. Under this bill, information shared with a certified advocate will be privileged communication, kept confidential unless a victim consents to disclosure. Together, both bills will help ensure that victims are informed, supported, and respected, especially on college campuses.

HB 2317: Doubling the Statute of Limitations on Rape

Oregon's six-year statute of limitations on rape and other certain sex crimes was one of the shortest in the country. House Bill 2317 doubles the statute of limitations for first degree sex crimes, including rape, to 12 years. Under current state law, there is no statute of limitations when DNA evidence is present.

SB 3: Increased Penalty for Violating Domestic Violence Restraining Order

Oregon faces a domestic violence death nearly once a month. This bill better protects victims of domestic abuse by strengthening the enforcement of restraining orders. Senate Bill 3 increases the penalty for violating a Family Abuse Prevention Act restraining order, if there is clear risk of physical injury, to a Class C felony. The bill also gives judges the ability to make violations punishable by up to five years imprisonment, a \$125,000 fine, or both (Class C Felony).

HB 2356: Increased Penalties for Invading Privacy

House Bill 2356 creates increased penalties for a second conviction of invasion of privacy or for making a recording or photo of another person in a state of nudity for sexual gratification. This activity is currently a misdemeanor and is upgraded to a felony with passage of this bill.

SB 492: Work Leave for Victims of Domestic Violence

Senate Bill 492 allows employees to use sick leave or personal business leave to seek services, assistance or treatment if they are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Prior to passage, employees could be limited to using only vacation leave for such purposes. The bill applies to workplaces with six or more employees.

HB 2776: Emergency Protective Orders

House Bill 2776 increases protection for people in danger of domestic violence or abuse by allowing law enforcement to obtain temporary emergency protective orders with the victim's permission and if the officer has probable cause to believe the person is in danger.

[HB 3466: Protecting Victims from Assault](#)

House Bill 3466 expands protections for assault victims from intimidation by defendants. The bill makes clear that a court order prohibiting a defendant from having contact with a victim—specifically in sex crime and domestic violence cases—must also include attempted contact by the defendant, either in person or through a third party.

[HB 3469: Increased Penalty for Strangulation of Pregnant Victim](#)

House Bill 3469 increases the penalty for strangulation if the person knew their victim was pregnant. If convicted of committing the crime with that knowledge, the person now faces a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$125,000 fine or both (Class C Felony). The bill ensures consistency for judges and attorneys when considering charges in cases of intimate partner violence.

[SB 790: Domestic Violence Education in Schools](#)

Oregon law currently requires school districts to have a policy in place that defines and prohibits teen dating violence and incorporates teen dating violence education into new or existing programs for students in grades 7 through 12. Senate Bill 790 expands on existing law, requiring such educational programs to also include education about domestic violence.

[SB 622: Mandatory Reporting of Abuse](#)

Senate Bill 622 adds personal support workers and home care workers to list of mandatory reporters of abuse of children, elderly persons, and other vulnerable persons.

[HB 2694: Protecting Social Workers who Report Animal Abuse](#)

A social worker's job often places them in close proximity to a client, their family, and sometimes, their pets. House Bill 2694 allows a Department of Human Services social worker to report suspected animal abuse and neglect, without fear of liability or retaliation, when they witness something of concern in the regular course of their work. Without this allowance, social workers could be held criminally or civilly liable for making such a report, even if acting in their professional capacity.

[SB 614: Helping Police Prevent Animal Abuse](#)

Current Oregon law allows a police officer to enter premises with a search warrant when the officer has probable cause to believe an animal is being abused or neglected. Aimed especially at preventing animals from suffering in hot parked vehicles, Senate Bill 614 ensures a police officer can enter a vehicle in the same circumstances.

[SB 919: Accountability for False Threats](#)

Oregon law already provides a higher penalty for knowingly and falsely reporting a bomb, fire, or other hazard in a school. Senate Bill 919 expands this offense to include false threats against court facilities and other public buildings.

[SB 641: Smartphone Data Privacy](#)

Data stored on a smartphone or other portable electronic device can paint a near complete picture of even the most intimate and personal details of someone's life. To ensure that law enforcement only access this data appropriately, Senate Bill 641 requires a warrant or consent to copy data from a portable electronic device and allows information obtained without a warrant or consent to be excluded from use in court.

SB 601: Responding to Data Breaches & Protecting Personal Health Info

The Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act requires businesses and government agencies to institute safeguards for personal information and give notice to consumers of digital data breaches. Senate Bill 601 updates this law to include more types of personal information (including medical, biometric, and health information), and requires a company to notify the Attorney General when they experience a data breach affecting more than 250 people.

HB 2704: Improving Police Transparency by Allowing Public Recording

Under current Oregon Law, it is a crime to record a conversation without specifically informing both parties. House Bill 2704 provides an exception to this law allowing a person to record a police officer acting in their official duties, in open and plain view, in a place where the person recording is legally allowed.

HB 3206: Post-Conviction DNA Testing

Oregon's prior law allowing post-conviction DNA testing was very restrictive and has been seldom used to challenge a conviction. House Bill 3206 broadens this statute to allow any person convicted of aggravated murder or felony with relevant DNA evidence to file for DNA testing to challenge their conviction.

SB 839: Good Samaritan Immunity Law for Drug Overdoses

Senate Bill 839 allows individuals to seek medical attention without fear of arrest when a person experiences a drug overdose. SB 839 will provide narrow legal immunity for possession charges against a person when they call for help with a drug overdose. The bill increases the likelihood that a person overdosing on drugs, or someone in their company, will call for medical assistance in time to make a critical difference.

HB 3503: Supporting Incarcerated Mothers

Women represent the fastest-growing inmate population in Oregon, and more than 75 percent of Oregon's female prisoners are mothers, which presents a challenge in keeping families intact and healthy. House Bill 3503 creates the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program (FSAP), which would allow qualified offenders who are also parents to participate in a diversion program rather than incarceration. The aim of the diversion program is to allow children to maintain a relationship with their parent, while a family receives intensive wrap-around services. This approach is good for families, for their communities, and is proven to save costs in both the short- and the long-term. In addition, Senate Bill 5507 includes a \$400,000 investment to restore funding for the Family Preservation Project (FPP), a program that has served incarcerated mothers and their children in Department of Corrections (DOC) custody

since 2003. The FPP addresses the impact of incarceration on mothers and their families, by enabling mothers to maintain a bond with their children and learn parenting skills while incarcerated. The program has a tremendous record of success in keeping families intact and nearly eliminating recidivism among women who participate.

[SB 921](#): Fritz-Fairchild Act for Highway Cable Barriers

Senate Bill 921 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to complete installation of lifesaving median barriers on interstate highways where the space between opposing lanes of traffic measures 100 feet or less. The measure is known as the Fritz-Fairchild Act in memory of Dr. Steven Fritz and Cary Fairchild, both employees of the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, who were killed in a cross-over crash while commuting to work on September 24, 2014.

[SB 533](#): Safe Passage on Red Lights for Bicyclists

Allows a motorcyclist or bicyclist to proceed through an intersection if they wait one full cycle and the stop light does not detect their presence and turn green.

[HB 3318](#): Oregon Lottery Responsible Gambling Code

House Bill 3318 requires the Oregon State Lottery Commission to adopt a Responsible Gambling Code of Practice to ensure the Lottery is managed to reduce problem gambling. The Lottery has a double mission of raising revenue for public programs and to minimize problem gambling; HB 3318 directs the Commission to develop policies and practices to reduce the public harm caused by problem gambling.

[HB 2225](#) & [HB 2226](#): Holding Criminal Elder Abusers Accountable

House Bills 2225 and 2226 ensure that people who take advantage of or steal from elderly individuals are held accountable. HB 2225 provides greater flexibility for investigation of financial crimes against seniors by broadening the jurisdiction of a search warrant issued for this purpose. HB 2226 ensures that a person who steals from a senior citizen does not avoid paying restitution simply because the person they stole from has died.

[HB 2300](#): “Right-to-Try” Treatment for Terminally Ill Patients

House Bill 2300 creates a “Right-to-Try” law in Oregon, outlining the process by which certain terminally ill patients can try an experimental treatment that hasn’t yet been FDA approved. Several other states have considered and passed similar legislation in recent years.

[SB 307](#): Respecting Patient Choice in Continuing Care Communities

Residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRC) often need assistance with activities of daily living, including personal care such as toileting, bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene. Senate Bill 307 requires CCRCs to respect a resident’s request to have a same-gender caregiver provide these personal services, whenever possible, and details a grievance process for a facility’s failure to comply.

[HB 3378](#): CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable) Act

As our population ages, the role of family caregiving has shifted and expanded. In addition to assistance with activities or daily living, family caregivers often now take on more advanced tasks like wound care, medication management, and injections. To help ensure that family caregivers have the support and training they need to transition from the hospital to the home, House Bill 3378 establishes the CARE (“Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable”) Act, requiring all hospitals in Oregon to adopt discharge policies that include lay caregiver instruction and training, with the goal of better involving and preparing family caregivers as members of a patient’s care team

[SB 71: Updating Oregon’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

The Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was created in 2009 to help healthcare providers and pharmacists manage patients’ prescriptions, reducing the rate of prescription drug misuse and overdose. The program requires pharmacies to report to the PDMP within one week when they dispense certain restricted drugs. The goal is to work towards a “real-time” reporting system and to make the PDMP more effective in alerting pharmacies when a patient has filled multiple prescriptions. Senate Bill 71 reduces the reporting timeframe down to 72 hours, improving the timeliness and utility of PDMP information.

[HB 2551: Protecting Consumer Health Information](#)

House Bill 2551 requires health insurers and providers to demonstrate, every year to Oregon’s Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), how they are protecting individual protected health information. Data breaches are becoming increasingly common, putting Oregonians’ identifiable, sensitive, and private information at risk. This bill is just one step in safeguarding individuals’ privacy by holding insurers and providers accountable to their consumers, and making sure that they are complying with existing data security regulations.

[HB 2560: Preventing Colorectal Cancer](#)

In 2014, the Legislature has passed a measure to ensure that all Oregonians can get screened for colorectal cancer, at no cost. However, many patients with a positive screening cannot afford the follow-up colonoscopy, which is not guaranteed to be covered by insurance. House Bill 2560 will fix this, by requiring health benefit plans to cover the cost of follow-up colonoscopy and related care when a patient has had a positive screening.

[SB 505: Protecting Oregon’s Seniors from the Flu](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that adults 65 years of age and older are at higher risk for flu-related complications than other populations, and recommends flu vaccines to this age group. The Oregon Health Authority reports that Oregon’s flu vaccination rate for this population falls short of national targets. To bring Oregon closer to annual recommended flu immunization rates, Senate Bill 505 requires all hospitals, between October and March 1, to offer a flu shot to patients 65 and older.

[HB 2600: Protecting Health Coverage during Medical Leave](#)

House Bill 2600 closes a gap in the Oregon Family Leave Act that could allow some employers to drop an employee's medical coverage while that employee is out on medical leave. With passage of this bill, an employee can count on their coverage to be there when they need it most.

[SB 93](#): Managing Chronic Health during an Emergency

In the event of a major disaster, Oregonians may be prevented from accessing chronic condition medications. Many health benefit plans currently allow for up to a 90-day supply for chronic condition medications, however, getting this supply can be cost prohibitive to a patient if they use a non-network pharmacy, or mail order service. Senate Bill 93 will help make sure chronic disease patients who are stable on a medication are able to get a full 90-day supply of their medication, increasing the likelihood that they will be able to manage their condition in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

[HB 2828](#): Options for Financing Health Care in Oregon

A 2013 law required the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to conduct an externally-funded study to compare four types of structures for financing health care delivery, with the aim of ensuring that the Legislature has the information necessary to determine the best next steps for Oregon's health care transformation efforts. The original measure required OHA to report by 2015, however, OHA hasn't identified full funding in order to complete the study at present. House Bill 2828 allows additional time, and invests \$300,000 for OHA to contract with a third party to conduct the study by 2016.

[SB 905](#): Adding a Physician Assistant to the Oregon Medical Board

There are currently over 1,500 Physician Assistants (PA) licensed in Oregon, and regulated by the Oregon Medical Board (OMB). Despite being regulated by the OMB, there are no PAs represented in OMB membership. Senate Bill 905 fixes this, adding one physician assistant or retired physician assistant to the OMB, ensuring that those with the most thorough knowledge, experience, and skills from their respective fields are involved in the monitoring of licensees, and at the table for important discussions of their industry.

[HB 3139](#): Mobile Medical Clinics in Rural Oregon

Across Oregon, some local governments do not have codes or policies that allow medical services to be provided by a mobile medical or dental clinic for an extended period of time—usually longer than a week. This can be a problem in rural Oregon, where a permanent brick-and-mortar clinic may not be feasible due to a small patient population and/or funding base. House Bill 3139 gives Oregon's rural communities the option to site mobile medical clinics for up to 180 days, providing needed access to health services by licensed professionals in underserved areas.

[SB 89](#): Local Assistance for Veterans

Many local communities in Oregon rely on volunteers who assist and advocate for veterans. This valuable volunteer service is offered differently from one locality to the next, sometimes in conjunction with County Veterans Service Officers. Senate Bill 89 allows counties and the

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to appoint qualified, vetted volunteers to provide specified support services. This bill will improve support for veterans across the state, especially in rural Oregon.

SB 253: Confidentiality for Veterans

Senate Bill 253 allows veterans, active-duty, reserve and National Guard members of the armed forces to be exempt from having certain personally identifiable and contact information subject to public records requests. The bill will assist the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs in protecting the information of people accessing their services, helping to foster trust between veterans and the department.

HB 2645: Supporting Veterans in Higher Education

House Bill 2645 requires Oregon's public universities, and allows community colleges, to give eligible service members and their dependents enrollment priority over other students. Many eligible veterans receive Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits which help cover the cost of tuition for 36 months and provide a housing stipend for enrolled students. HB 2645 will help ensure that veterans can get the most from the benefits available to them by increasing opportunities to participate in higher education.

SB 494: Helping Deployed Servicemembers Keep Valid ID

Current law in Oregon requires a valid photograph for renewals or replacements of an Oregon Driver's License, with only two exceptions for facial disfigurement and religious objection. Senate Bill 494 adds a third exception, for servicemembers stationed outside of Oregon while serving in the Armed Forces. Some servicemembers have reported difficulty with renewing their license while deployed, if a photo on file with the State is too old to be considered valid. This bill will allow servicemembers to maintain valid home state identification, even when they are not able to renew or replace a license in person in Oregon.

HB 3011: Rural Self-Serve Gasoline

House Bill 3011 allows gas stations in rural parts of Oregon to provide self-serve gas to customers between the hours of 6 PM and 6 AM. This applies to any county with a population under 40,000 including most Eastern Oregon counties as well as Clatsop, Tillamook, and Hood River Counties.

HB 3402: Highway Speed in Rural Oregon

House Bill 3402 increases the speed limit to 70 miles per hour for most vehicles (65 miles per hour for heavy vehicles) on certain stretches of highway in areas of rural Oregon.

HB 3104: Telecommunications Facilities for Rural Ports

Under former Oregon law, ports were prohibited from pursuing certain economic development activities that could be of great benefit. Oregon law outlines the general authority and powers of Oregon's system of 23 public ports. Oregon ports are operated by locally-elected boards of commissioners, with the exception of the Port of Portland and International Port of Coos Bay, whose boards are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Ports are

authorized to acquire, operate, and maintain various types of infrastructure; however, before passage of HB 3104, "telecommunications infrastructure" was not included on this list, likely because the technology did not exist when this law was originally written. HB 3104 expands the statutory authority of ports to include telecommunications—increasing the range of economic development opportunities available to rural ports.

HB 2182: Statewide Predator Management

House Bill 2182 requires the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to study developing a predator management plan for the State and to report back to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly. The bill will facilitate a scientific and economically feasible statewide predator management policy, ensuring that all Oregonians have healthy populations for hunting, viewing and fishing.

HB 2534: Restricting Drones from Hunting and Fishing

House Bill 2534 allows the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to prohibit the use of drones for hunting, trapping, scouting, and fishing. When wildlife officials determine bag and license sale limits for a state, they generally do so with traditional hunting methods and standard success rates in mind. The use of drones in hunting can negatively impact wildlife populations, and undermines the core ethical principle in hunting of a 'fair chase'. HB 2534 will help prevent the use of this unsporting method in Oregon.

HB 2463: Safety on Public Waterways

House Bill 2463 allows the Department of State Lands to remove derelict and abandoned structures—vessels, submerged docks, marine debris, etc.—from state waterways when an owner has failed to remedy the problem. This bill will help ensure that our lakes, rivers, and territorial sea are safer for Oregonians who want to fish, travel, and enjoy recreation on Oregon's more than 1.2 million acres of state-owned waterways.

HB 2207: Aquatic Invasive Species & Ballast Water Management

Ocean going vessels acquire and discharge ballast water to provide better ship stability. Because ballast tanks may have been filled with water from foreign ports, ballast discharge in Oregon ports and harbors has the potential to introduce aquatic non-indigenous species into state waterways. This has the potential to cause ecological damage, economic costs, and/or human health concerns. Since 2007, the Department of Environmental Quality has dedicated resources for the implementation and enforcement of ballast water management regulations to reduce the risk of introducing new aquatic invasive species as a result of ballast water. House Bill 2207 authorizes the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt standards and procedures for implementing alternative ballast water management including appropriate use of treatment technology and strategies to mitigate risks from vessels with empty ballast tanks that enter waters of the state. Specifically, the bill requires salt water flushing for empty ballast tank vessels, referred to as "No Ballast On Board" vessels. Use of this flushing process is consistent with existing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Vessel General Permit regulations. It will also enable Oregon state inspectors to provide technical assistance and enforcement efforts, and will make Oregon's ballast water regulations consistent with those of Washington State.

HB 3012: Oregon Hatchery Research Center Fund

Established in 2005, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) is a unique cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University. OHRC plays a key role in developing fisheries science, and in supporting state conservation and native fish protection efforts. House Bill 3012 establishes a stable funding source to support the research efforts of OHRC, providing the long-term investment necessary to allow OHRC to provide the science necessary for sound, evidence-based policy making.

HB 3539: Oregon Oyster Week

Prior even to beginning to hunt and fish, our ancestors gathered oysters for food from rocks on the sea edge—including Oregon’s indigenous peoples who used oysters and clams as a staple food. In the mid-19th century, settlers from the East Coast discovered oysters in the Pacific Northwest and thus began the commercial oyster industry here in Oregon. The Oregon oyster industry today is still the subject for developing advanced techniques of farming the sea. A 2010 report by Oregon State University Extension stated that Oregon’s oyster industry produces about 6.29 million pounds of oyster meat each year and oyster sales amount to about \$4.7 million annually. Approximately 70 percent of Oregon oyster sales are outside the state—exporting throughout the nation and world. You can find oysters in many of Oregon's estuaries, but the largest producers of commercial oysters include Coos, Yaquina, Tillamook, and Netarts Bays. House Bill 3539 designates the fourth week in April each year as Oregon Oyster Week.

HB 3333: Using Salmon License Plate Funds Wisely

House Bill 3333 requires that a portion of the funds collected from salmon license plate fees only be used for projects to protect or restore native salmon habitat or to remove artificial obstructions to native salmon migration. Under this legislation, funds collected from the salmon license will be used primarily for stream restoration.

HB 2509: Encouraging Mediation for Farming Coexistence Issues

House Bill 2509 outlines a process for farmers to access low-cost mediation services through the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to help neighboring farmers identify voluntary ways to deal with coexistence issues. This bill incentivizes mediation as a first line of recourse for resolving disputes, potentially avoiding costly litigation or interventions. The bill will also assist ODA in tracking and understanding trends in farming coexistence conflicts to help determine how to best support all farmers in the future.

SB 515: Improving the Oregon Transparency Website

The [Oregon Transparency Website](#) is a tool to help citizens inform themselves on the operations of state government, how government works, how tax dollars are spent and how purchasing decisions are made. Senate Bill 515 continues to increase transparency and access to vital information by requiring information to be posted on the Oregon Transparency Website regarding programs such as the Oregon Product Investment Fund, the Beginning and Expanding Farmer Loan Program, other economic development programs, and reports on certain tax expenditures. SB 515 also allows local governments to post notices of public meetings, as well

as requires a new method for users of the Oregon Transparency Website to offer suggestions for improvement regarding the website's form and content.

HB 2974: Public Hearings for Redistricting

Congressional and Legislative districts are redrawn every ten years in response to population changes based on the US Census. House Bill 2974 puts current practice into law by requiring the Legislature to hold ten public hearings throughout the state prior to proposing a redistricting plan, which will allow communities to have input on how their representation is structured.

HB 3524: Boosting the Supply of Affordable Housing

House Bill 3524 requires the State of Oregon to give nonprofit organizations the first right of refusal to develop affordable housing on property that the State no longer needs. This measure will help address an ongoing shortage of buildable land for affordable housing.

HB 2195: Addressing Homelessness in Multnomah County

Oregon's current laws outline how counties must use any money gained from the sale of foreclosed properties. House Bill 2195 requires Multnomah County to use designated proceeds from foreclosure sales or by exchange for land originally acquired by foreclosure of delinquent tax liens, for housing services. In January 2015, Multnomah County adopted an ambitious community plan to tackle homelessness. HB 2195 will support the goals of the community's plan, committing certain foreclosure sale funds for things like housing supports for youth and families with children, rental assistance, and low income housing development.

HB 2889: Savings Accounts for Foster Youth

House Bill 2889 stems from the work of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection (OFYC), a statewide, youth-led, advocacy group of current and former foster youth. The bill allows foster youth 12 and older to establish a savings account of their own. This bill will help foster youth develop critical money management skills, financial literacy, and independence—all important skills for any youth, but especially important for youth in foster care who are often transitioning frequently, and can be financially vulnerable.

HB 2890: Making Sure Foster Kids can Participate in Extracurricular Activities

House Bill 2890 stems from the work of the Oregon Foster Youth Connection, a statewide, youth-led, advocacy group of current and former foster youth. More than 8,000 children are currently in the foster care system in Oregon. This bill directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to accommodate participation in extracurricular activities for children in foster care, in coordination with agencies and foster families. Extracurricular experiences—like playing sports, hiking and camping, learning an instrument, learning an art or new skill, or participating in with peers—are critical and formative for growth. House Bill 2890 will help ensure that children and youth in foster care have access to the same kinds of experiences and opportunities as other kids across Oregon.

SB 686: Work Experience for Out of School Youth

Senate Bill 686 helps get kids who have dropped out back into school by allowing alternative high schools to qualify for federal money that provides training and work experience for their students.

HB 3014: Recognizing Grandparents' Role for Kids

House Bill 3014 ensures that both sets of grandparents can have a right to notice of a court proceeding and a right to request visitation of their grandchild in foster care, regardless of whether their child (the parent) has had their parental rights terminated by the court.

HB 2655: Student Testing Bill of Rights

House Bill 2655 establishes a 'Student Assessment Bill of Rights', in response to growing concerns from educators, parents, and students about testing in schools. The bill standardizes the process to excuse a student from participating in statewide standardized tests, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment, improves notice and information provided to parents and students, and strengthens student data privacy protections.

HB 2832: Protecting Students from Exorbitant Financial Aid Fees

Some Oregon universities contract with private financial aid management firms that charge high fees when students access their financial aid funding. This includes transaction fees, inactivity fees, initial payment fees, and revenue sharing with the university. House Bill 2832 prohibits universities from agreeing to contracts that include these fees, so students can get access financial aid funds without wasting money on exorbitant fees.

HB 2847: Helping Students Understand their Financial Aid Options

In 1998 Oregon created Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE), with the goal of helping middle and high school students access education and training beyond high school. ASPIRE provides students with information about college and career options, admission, and financial aid from mentors who work one-on-one with students in 145 sites across the state. House Bill 2847 expands on the important work ASPIRE already does, by requiring existing programs to provide financial aid instruction to students and their families, including information on different types of loans, potential use of individual development accounts, and economic impacts of each type of loan.

HB 3379: Educators Equity Act

The Minority Teacher Act was enacted in 1991 and updated in 2013 with the goal of having the diversity of educators and administrators working in Oregon's schools more proportionately reflect Oregon's student population. House Bill 3375 updates this law, renaming it the Educators Equity Act. This Act refocuses a number of the original goals related to educator and student diversity, and reflects the state's commitment to equity in opportunity and cultural competence in Oregon's schools.

SB 473: Inclusive Data Collection at Oregon Colleges and Universities

Though many campuses across Oregon have worked to create safe, inclusive environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students, barriers still remain for many.

One critical challenge for schools is a lack of comprehensive, standardized data to help campuses assess and address the needs of LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty. Senate Bill 473 requires public universities to allow students, faculty, and staff to identify their sexual orientation on demographic forms, to allow students to use their preferred name on campus records, and to make this data available to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The bill also directs HECC to work with community colleges to implement similar practices.

HB 2478: Gender-Neutral Statutes Related to Marriage

In response to the 2014 court decision in *Geiger v. Kitzhaber*, which allowed same-sex marriage, House Bill 2478 makes statutory changes to achieve gender neutral language in statutes related to marriage, including real estate and tax law. Previously, statute allowed for a narrow definition of marriage only between a man and woman.

HB 2177: Universal Voter Registration

First in the nation legislation to dramatically expand access to elections, House Bill 2177 will make voter registration simpler, more convenient, and more secure by using the data that the DMV currently collects for drivers' licenses to automatically register Oregonians to vote unless they opt out. This modernized process will provide simple and accurate voter registration to eligible voters and will update address information for people who have already registered. The Oregon Secretary of State and DMV will begin updating this new process, and registering new voters, starting this January. While other state legislatures are working to limit voter participation, Oregon is moving in the opposite direction by removing unnecessary, outdated barriers to voting.

SB 263: Updating the 'Opportunity to Recycle' Program

Senate Bill 263 updates the original 'Opportunity to Recycle' program for cities and counties to manage and implement local recycling programs. The bill authorizes local governments to charge a fee on solid waste collection in order to cover costs for recycling programs. SB 263 also updates goals and modernizes recycling standards for waste and recycling and requires urban areas like Portland and Eugene to increase materials recovery above what is required for other parts of the state.

SB 324: Clean Fuels Program Expansion

A significant economic and environmental victory, Senate Bill 324 removes the sunset on provisions related to Oregon's low carbon fuel standard. Commonly referred to as the Clean Fuels Program, the program requires oil companies to gradually reduce their share of carbon pollution, for a net reduction of 10 percent over ten years. The Clean Fuels program is expected to help drive innovation and business growth across Oregon's clean energy sector. The law is being phased in beginning this January, with full compliance measures starting April 30, 2018.

HB 2546: E-Cigarettes Regulation

House Bill 2546 addresses the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes, especially among youth, and sets state standards for a highly unregulated product. The bill bans the sales of e-

cigarettes to minors and extends the requirements of Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act to e-cigarette use. Prior to passage, there were no statewide restrictions on e-cigarette sales or use. Under the law, Oregonians may not use e-cigarettes and other inhalant delivery systems in workplaces, restaurants, bars and other indoor public places in Oregon beginning January 1, 2016.

These important protections are in addition to the many bills that have already gone into effect in 2015—please see [Oregon Senate Democrats 2015 Session Accomplishments](#)