
OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, circular emblem in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread at the top, holding an olive branch and arrows. Below the eagle is a shield depicting a landscape with a ship on the water, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat. The shield is surrounded by a ring of stars. The words "STATE OF OREGON" are written around the perimeter of the seal, and the year "1859" is at the bottom. A banner at the bottom of the shield reads "THE UNION".

2016 Session Accomplishments

Compiled by the Senate Majority Office

**Oregon Senate
Democrats**

**2016 Session
Accomplishments**

Table of Contents



1	Agenda & Checklist
2	Working Families, Consumer Protection & Housing
3	Jobs, Economy & Workforce
4	Education & Kids
5	Quality Health Care & Human Services
6	Environment & Rural Oregon
7	Public Safety, Justice & Cannabis Legalization
8	Seniors & Veterans
9	Transportation & Infrastructure
10	Government Accountability & Balanced Budget



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 SESSION AGENDA CHECK LIST

In 2016, Oregon Senate Democrats built on our successes, continuing our focus on growing Oregon's economy, ensuring smart, accountable implementation of the policies we've championed, and supporting the education, health, and safety of rural and urban Oregonians.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, Senate Democrats delivered on Oregon's priorities by:

Growing Oregon's Economy: Investing in Education, Small Businesses, and our Workforce across the State

- ✓ Supported Oregon's small businesses by simplifying regulatory processes (*SB 1563, SB 1583, HB 4014, HB 4053*)
- ✓ Promoted family wage jobs in urban & rural Oregon (*SB 1503, SB 1532, SB 1544, SB 1589, HB 4037*)
- ✓ Protected our significant investments in K-12, community college, and university education (*SB 1537, SB 1541, SB 5701, HB 4002, HB 4076*)
- ✓ Commenced meaningful discussion about tax reform in Oregon (*Senate Finance & Revenue Committee Meeting 2/4/2016*)
- ✓ Continued to develop a balanced transportation funding plan for Oregon that bolsters critical infrastructure, creates jobs, and protects our quality of life (*HB 4048*)

Fostering Government Accountability and Transparency

- ✓ Balanced the budget by making sure government spends wisely (*SB 5701*)
- ✓ Ensured that Oregon's prepared to handle emergent financial needs when they arise (*SB 5701*)
- ✓ Equipped state agencies with the resources they need to provide essential services, while holding them accountable for delivering quality work by tightening oversight and promoting sound, evidence-based practices (*SB 1515, SB 1538, SB 1539, SB 1571, HB 4106*)
- ✓ Enhanced government transparency by promoting open and fair public processes (*HB 4067, HB 4134, HB 4135*)

Keeping Oregon Healthy and Safe

- ✓ Built on our investment in affordable, safe housing statewide (*SB 1533, SB 1582, HB 4081, HB 4143*)
- ✓ Continued the transformation of health care delivery for Oregonians, including innovations in behavioral and mental health (*HB 4017, HB 4030, HB 4071, HB 4107, HB 4141, SB 5701*)
- ✓ Fostered safe, healthy environments in which Oregonians live, work, learn, play, and raise families (*SB 1515, SB 1547, SB 1558, SB 1566, HB 4075, HB 4110, HB 4127*)



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 SESSION AGENDA

In 2016, Oregon Senate Democrats will build on our successes, continuing our focus on growing Oregon's economy, ensuring smart, accountable implementation of the policies we've championed, and supporting the education, health, and safety of rural and urban Oregonians.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, Senate Democrats will deliver on Oregon's priorities by:

Growing Oregon's Economy: Investing in Education, Small Businesses, and our Workforce across the State

- ◆ Supporting Oregon's small businesses by simplifying regulatory processes
- ◆ Promoting family wage jobs in urban and rural Oregon
- ◆ Protecting our significant investments in K-12, community college, and university education
- ◆ Commencing meaningful discussion about tax reform in Oregon
- ◆ Continuing to develop a balanced transportation funding plan for Oregon that bolsters critical infrastructure, creates jobs, and protects our quality of life

Fostering Government Accountability and Transparency

- ◆ Balancing the budget by making sure government spends wisely
- ◆ Ensuring that our state is prepared to address emergent financial needs when they arise
- ◆ Equipping state agencies with the resources they need to provide essential services, while holding them accountable for delivering quality work by tightening oversight and promoting sound, evidence-based practices
- ◆ Enhancing government transparency by promoting open and fair public processes

Keeping Oregon Healthy and Safe

- ◆ Building on our investment in affordable, safe housing statewide
- ◆ Continuing the transformation of health care delivery for Oregonians, including innovations in behavioral and mental health
- ◆ Fostering safe, healthy environments in which Oregonians live, work, learn, play, and raise families

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Working Families

SB 1532 Increasing Oregon's Minimum Wage

Too many families across the state are working full-time but cannot afford to meet basic needs. Saving for a home, college or retirement is impossible if you're living paycheck to paycheck. By providing a meaningful, but measured, increase in Oregon's minimum wage, we will help all Oregonians access a secure future. Senate Bill 1532 creates three minimum wage levels across the state. Workers in Region 1 (rural counties) will earn \$12.50 by 2022, workers in Region 3 (within Portland's Urban Growth Boundary) will earn \$14.75 by 2022, and workers in Region 2 (all other counties) will earn \$13.50 by 2022. After 2022, workers in Region 1 will earn \$1 below the Region 2 wage and workers in Region 3 will earn \$1.25 above the Region 2 wage.

SB 1587 Giving Workers Access to Wage and Pay Information

Senate Bill 1587 ensures all workers have timely and accurate information about their wages and withholdings. This bill requires employers to provide certain information on all pay stubs and timely response to requests for additional records; it also provides additional funding to the Bureau of Labor and Industries for enforcement and investigation.

HB 4110 Making Work Pay for Low-Income Families with Young Children

House Bill 4110 expands the Earned Income Tax Credit from 8 to 11 percent for families with a child between the ages of 0 and 3. The EITC helps families work their way out of poverty, and expanding it for those families with the youngest children will have a big impact on helping them afford child care and other rising expenses.

HB 4086 Extended Unemployment Support for Workers in a Lockout

House Bill 4086 provides an additional 26 weeks of Unemployment Insurance benefits for workers who have been shut out of their jobs as part of a lockout by their employer. The bill originated from a lockout at a steel factory in Albany where the employer shut workers out of their jobs as part of a bargaining strategy. The bill applies to the group of workers affected in the Albany situation as well as future workers who are affected by an extended lockout.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Working Families (*continued*)

HB 4127 Updating Oregon's Marriage Statutes

House Bill 4127 updates language in Oregon's marriage statutes to fix a discrepancy between the recognized law of the land – the freedom to marry – and outdated, unenforceable language in Oregon's state statutes that defines marriage as only between a husband and wife. HB 4127 implements necessary gender-neutral language to ensure all couples who are married in Oregon have the same privileges, immunities, rights, benefits and responsibilities under the law.

HB 4021 Student Loan Debt Study

Since 2004, total student loan debt has ballooned from \$350 billion to approximately \$1.2 trillion, and outstanding student debt has surpassed the amount that American households owe on auto loans, home equity loans and credit cards. House Bill 4021 directs the State Treasurer and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study and explore approaches for lowering interest rates on student loans in Oregon.

***HB 4073 Promoting Access to Marriage**

Under current Oregon law, marriages may be solemnized by religious congregations or organizations, clergypersons authorized by religious congregations or organizations, a judicial officer or a county clerk. House Bill 4073 would add secular organizations and individuals authorized by secular organizations to the list of persons and entities authorized to solemnize marriages in Oregon, ensuring that nonreligious citizens have full and equal access to the institution of marriage.

**Measure passed in the Senate; subsequently did not pass in the House.*

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Consumer Protection

SB 1591 Insurance Transparency for Consumers and Regulators

Senate Bill 1591 authorizes the Department of Consumer and Business Services to provide information about complaints received against an insurer for an unlawful trade practice. This authorization protects consumers by removing any personally identifying information prior to release, but provides an additional tool for consumers and regulators when choosing an insurance policy.

HB 4128 Preventing “Notario” Fraud

In Oregon, only attorneys and federally authorized individuals can provide legal advice on immigration matters. However, some unqualified individuals advertising their services as a “notario” -- a misleading term because, in many countries, “notario” refers to someone with the same training and authority as an attorney -- deceive consumers and provide illegitimate services. House Bill 4128 cracks down on “notario” fraud by strengthening penalties, tightening standards for becoming a notary public and providing law enforcement and other agencies with more effective tools to protect consumers and hold fraudulent practitioners accountable.

HB 4105 Patient Safety: Informing Patients About Biosimilar Substitutes

Biosimilars are FDA-approved treatments that are sometimes substituted for biological products used to treat conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, psoriasis, and various forms of cancer. House Bill 4105 requires pharmacists to notify a patient’s physician when a biosimilar is dispensed, through simple means, such as notation in an electronic medical record, or by phone or email. This communication between prescriber and pharmacist will help protect patient safety, without discouraging the use of biosimilars, which are often less expensive to patients and insurers than brand biologics.

HB 4142 Clear Identification for Private Security Professionals

House Bill 4142 prohibits private security companies from using a name that implies that the company is affiliated with an existing law enforcement, public safety or Armed Forces agency -- an important provision to prevent confusion among consumers or the public at large. The regulation won’t force existing companies to change their names.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Housing

SB 1533 Local Affordable Housing Tools: Inclusionary Zoning and Construction Excise Tax

In response to Oregon's mounting housing crisis, Senate Bill 1533 provides two useful tools that local jurisdictions can use to address housing stock and affordability. The bill partially lifts Oregon's ban on inclusionary zoning, allowing cities and counties to require developers to set aside a portion of new multifamily developments as affordable housing in exchange for substantive incentives. SB 1533 also allows cities and counties to establish new local construction excise taxes, with revenues directed to support affordable housing -- including the costs of providing developer incentives in jurisdictions that implement inclusionary zoning.

HB 4143 Predictability and Stability for Oregon Renters

House Bill 4143 provides more predictability for Oregon renters with month-to-month tenancies by prohibiting landlords from increasing rent during the first year and requiring a 90-day notification for any rent increases after that. By stabilizing rent within the first year of a tenancy and providing more notice for tenants in month-to-month rental agreements prior to rent increases, HB 4143 will allow individuals and families reasonable time to plan around their housing expenses.

SB 1573 Streamlining Local Annexation Processes

Senate Bill 1573 streamlines certain annexation processes by requiring a city to annex certain territory without a vote of the people when all land owners in the territory to be annexed agree and submit a completed petition. Territory to be annexed also must be within the existing UGB and subject to the current comprehensive plan of the city.

HB 4079 Growth Boundary Expansion Pilot Projects for Affordable Housing

House Bill 4079 requires the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to establish and implement an affordable housing pilot program, under which two communities may apply to expand their Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) modestly to develop affordable housing. The bill sets forth a number of strict eligibility criteria for LCDC in approving pilot projects, as well as parameters for the two communities that are selected to participate.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Housing (*continued*)

SB 1582 Implementing the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature authorized \$40 million in general obligation bonds to fund affordable housing development projects statewide through the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing program, but did not establish program parameters. With bonds scheduled to be issued in the spring of 2017, Senate Bill 1582 sets forth clear guidelines for implementing the LIFT program, ensuring that these bonding dollars are invested wisely.

HB 4081 Preserving Existing Low-Income Housing

House Bill 4081 extends the sunset on an existing property tax exemption which allows certain nonprofit providers of affordable housing to continue operating low-income housing properties at a sustainable cost. The bill extends the sunset through 2022 -- maintaining the status quo for owners, residents and local jurisdictions -- to allow nearly 2,000 low-income housing units to remain affordable while the Legislature determines how best to approach this current exemption.

SB 1513 Supporting Surviving Spouses of Oregon's Emergency Responders and Public Safety Officers

Senate Bill 1513 authorizes counties to exempt property taxes for up to \$250,000 of assessed property value for homes owned and occupied by a surviving spouse of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce

SB 1589 Expanding Access to Capital for Small Businesses

Senate Bill 1589 expands access to capital for small businesses to grow, hire new employees and retain existing staff. The bill modifies certain eligibility criteria for loans administered from Business Oregon's Credit Enhancement Fund. The Fund, which provides loan insurance to assist businesses in obtaining access to working capital or fixed-asset financing, will provide much-needed assistance to small businesses through Oregon, mostly in smaller and rural communities.

SB 1583 Providing Support to Oregon's Small Businesses

The Office of Small Business Assistance within the Oregon Secretary of State's Office provides technical and regulatory assistance to Oregon's small businesses. Senate Bill 1583 expands the functions of this office to include coordination with, and assistance to, county and municipal governments. This will help small businesses interact more effectively with their local governments and remove barriers.

SB 1565 Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion

Senate Bill 1565 allows cities and counties to provide a property tax exemption, subject to specific conditions, for growing businesses making real property upgrades. Eligible companies must demonstrate job growth. The provisions in SB 1565 will sunset January 2024.

HB 4084 Local Government Tax Incentive for Brownfield Cleanup

House Bill 4084 authorizes local governments to provide a property tax incentive program to clean up brownfield sites, which are contaminated parcels of property that are hazardous for humans and environmental health. The bill gives local governments the ability to create and shape their own tax incentive program to help communities overcome the high costs of brownfield cleanup and enable economic development, as well as improved property values and a better standard of living.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce (*continued*)

HB 4037 Building High-Production Solar Power Plants

House Bill 4037 directs the Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program to provide incentives for the construction of high-production solar power plants in Oregon. Building more solar energy facilities in Oregon will lead to a broader base of clean, renewable power and construction of the plants will provide hundreds of jobs in rural Oregon. The bill appropriates about \$1 million to OBDD for the creation of the incentive program.

SB 1544 Extending Unemployment Insurance Eligibility for Apprentices

Apprenticeship programs are a key way for many to gain middle-class financial security. For some apprenticeship programs in Oregon, like sheetmetal workers, the unpaid classroom training program lasts longer than the amount of time an individual is eligible for unemployment insurance. To ensure apprentices across trades are able to receive wages or unemployment benefits for the full duration of their training, Senate Bill 1544 extends this window of eligibility from five to ten weeks.

SB 1534 Unemployment Benefits for School Staff

Senate Bill 1534 makes a simple change to ensure that non-instructional school employees like secretaries, school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians and others may qualify for unemployment benefits during summer and other academic breaks when they've left their job for good cause.

SB 1532 Increasing Oregon's Minimum Wage

Too many families across the state are working full-time but cannot afford to meet basic needs. Saving for a home, college or retirement is impossible if you're living paycheck to paycheck. By providing a meaningful, but measured, increase in Oregon's minimum wage, we will help all Oregonians access a secure future. Senate Bill 1532 creates three minimum wage levels across the state. Workers in Region 1 (rural counties) will earn \$12.50 by 2022, workers in Region 3 (within Portland's Urban Growth Boundary) will earn \$14.75 by 2022, and workers in Region 2 (all other counties) will earn \$13.50 by 2022. After 2022, workers in Region 1 will earn \$1 below the Region 2 wage and workers in Region 3 will earn \$1.25 above the Region 2 wage.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 1540 Encouraging Math Studies in Oregon

Mathematics education has been associated with higher earning potential and valuable applied skills across disciplines. Senate Bill 1540 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study to evaluate effective methods for increasing the number of students in mathematics-related majors studying at Oregon's universities. The HECC may consider a tuition waiver program for math majors, and will report back to the Legislature in 2017 on the study's conclusions.

HB 4053 Streamlining Brewery Licenses and Applications

House Bill 4053 expands the activities covered by a brewery license to include retail sales and special events. Currently, breweries may have to receive three or more separate permits to engage in these activities. HB 4053 makes this permitting process more efficient, helping breweries expand and do more business while maintaining public health and safety.

HB 4014 Removing Residency Requirements, Helping Small Businesses, Adjusting Criminal Penalties, Protecting Kids and Patients

House Bill 4014 is an omnibus bill that updates laws governing Oregon's recreational and medical marijuana systems. It removes residency restrictions for individuals who own or invest in legal cannabis businesses in Oregon. It also creates a Youth Cannabis-use Prevention Pilot Program to prevent children and young adults from using cannabis. The bill reduces some criminal penalties related to a range of marijuana offenses and directs state to treat medical cannabis use like the use of prescription drugs when setting conditions for pre-trial release, diversion, parole and probation. HB 4014 also allows veterans who have a qualifying medical condition to access medical marijuana cards at the same price as low-income individuals.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce (*continued*)

SB 1511 Expanded Access to Legal Cannabis, Protecting Patients, Improving Early Start

Senate Bill 1511 will help patients maintain access to medicine, increase efficiency for businesses and support careful tracking of cannabis products. The bill enables the Oregon Liquor Control Commission licensees to obtain a single license allowing them to produce/process/sell both adult-use and medical products within the OLCC-licensed system. All products within this OLCC-licensed system will be tracked from seed-to-sale. In addition, SB 1511 will give medical marijuana program growers transitioning to the OLCC system a small bump upward in their canopy limit and allow them to continue growing for their existing patients, if they choose to do so. SB 1511 also expands the items available in early start sales to include single-serving, low-dose edibles and concentrates.

HB 4060 Supporting Oregon's Growing Hemp Industry

In 2009, the Legislature authorized production of industrial hemp. With a wide variety of uses, hemp is a burgeoning agricultural commodity and represents significant economic development potential for communities across the state. House Bill 4060 makes a few changes to existing law governing hemp production, including minimum acreage, labeling and packaging standards and testing requirements.

HB 4094 Supporting Oregon's Cannabis Business in the Banking Industry

House Bill 4094 ensures that financial institutions providing banking and credit services to lawful cannabis businesses will not be subject to state criminal liability based solely on those services. As cannabis is a Schedule I federally controlled substance, financial institutions providing banking service to cannabis businesses often encounter difficulties. HB 4094 eliminates risk at the state level.

HB 4072 Catalyzing University Research into Successful Business Enterprises

Since 2007, the University Venture Development Fund tax credit has helped to convert the research conducted at Oregon's public universities into new businesses. In addition to income tax revenue generated by new jobs, universities repay the state with revenue earned by UVDF-sponsored companies. House Bill 4072 extends the tax credit for University Venture Development Fund contributions through 2021 and increases the annual taxpayer credit cap from \$50,000 to \$600,000.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce (*continued*)

HB 4084 Local Government Tax Incentive for Brownfield Cleanup

House Bill 4084 authorizes local governments to provide a property tax incentive program to clean up brownfield sites, which are contaminated parcels of property that are hazardous for humans and environmental health. The bill gives local governments the ability to create and shape their own tax incentive program to help communities overcome the high costs of brownfield cleanup and enable economic development, as well as improved property values and a better standard of living.

SB 1547 Transitioning Oregon Away from Coal Energy

Senate Bill 1547 makes Oregon the first state to formally transition away from coal-fired electricity and toward cleaner, renewable energy. SB 1547 requires elimination of coal power from Oregon's energy sources by 2030 and requires half of all Oregon electricity to come from renewable sources by 2040. Additionally, SB 1547 invests in small-scale community renewable projects and electric vehicle infrastructure. It also modifies the eligibility requirements for biomass energy generation. The bill caps the annual rate increase for ratepayers at 4 percent and gives broad authority to the Public Utility Commission in regulating electric companies. SB 1547 is landmark legislation affirming our commitment to a clean, healthy energy future and economy for all Oregonians.

SB 4044 Modernizing Recordkeeping Regulations for Pawnbrokers

Currently, pawnbrokers must keep a log of every transaction made in a pawn shop -- in electronic or paper form -- and transmit these records to local law enforcement. For firearms transactions specifically, a hard copy of the record must be hand-delivered or mailed to local law enforcement on the same day as the purchase. House Bill 4044 reduces this regulatory burden on pawnbrokers by allowing any registers -- including firearms transaction records -- to be kept and delivered to law enforcement in electronic form.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Jobs, Economy & Workforce (*continued*)

HB 4146 Increases Lodging Tax to Support Oregon's Tourism Economy

House Bill 4146 increases revenue to the statewide tourism industry and provides flexibility for how lodging tax funds can be used to benefit regional economies. The bill raises the state transient lodging tax rate from the current 1 percent to 1.8 percent until the end of June 2020. In July 2021, the rate will be reduced to 1.5 percent. Current law requires the Oregon Tourism Commission to spend at least 80 percent of net tax receipts on state tourism marketing programs and allocates up to 15 percent to regional tourism marketing programs. Under HB 4146, 20 percent of revenues will be allocated to regional development and 10 percent to a matching grant fund for local tourism programs. The initial lodging tax increase is estimated to raise an additional \$27 million for the Oregon Tourism Commission over the 2017-19 biennium. These additional funds will benefit tourism destinations across the state such as the Columbia River Gorge, Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast.

HB 4086 Extended Unemployment Support for Workers in a Lockout

House Bill 4086 provides an additional 26 weeks of Unemployment Insurance benefits for workers who have been shut out of their jobs as part of a lockout by their employer. The bill originated from a lockout at a steel factory in Albany where the employer shut workers out of their jobs as part of a bargaining strategy. The bill applies to the group of workers affected in the Albany situation as well as future workers who are affected by an extended lockout.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids

HB 4002 Addressing Chronic Absenteeism in Oregon's Schools

House Bill 4002 directs the creation of a statewide strategy for addressing chronic absenteeism in Oregon. Recognizing the barrier that childhood trauma can present to attending and succeeding in school, the bill also allocates \$500,000 for a pilot program to decrease rates of absenteeism using coordinated, trauma-informed approaches to education, health services and intervention strategies in several schools. This three-year pilot project will focus on communities with high need and will capitalize on Oregon's strong system of school-based health centers as an anchor for participating schools.

SB 1537 Promoting Higher Education Access: "Post-Graduate Scholar" Programs

Senate Bill 1537 allows school districts to receive and spend some State School Fund dollars to support "Post-Graduate Scholar" programs (fifth-year programs), which allow certain students who have already earned a high school diploma to earn community college credits while staying connected to important support systems and resources within their school district. SB 1537 allows successful local programs to continue, supports new statewide higher education programs -- like the Oregon Promise tuition assistance program -- and ensures accountability by requiring stakeholders to return to the Legislature with alternative proposals for funding Post-Graduate Scholar programs with a source outside of the K-12 budget.

SB 1566 Extending "Open Enrollment" Option in Public Schools

In 2011, the Oregon legislature enacted an "open enrollment" system, giving public school students the option to attend a school outside of their own district -- including online schools -- so long as the receiving school permits it. "Open enrollment" was scheduled to sunset in 2017. Senate Bill 1566 extends the "open enrollment" option for another two years, until 2019.

SB 1540 Encouraging Math Studies in Oregon

Mathematics education has been associated with higher earning potential and valuable applied skills across disciplines. Senate Bill 1540 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study to evaluate effective methods for increasing the number mathematics-related majors studying at Oregon's universities. The HECC may consider a tuition waiver program for math majors and will report back to the Legislature in 2017 on the study's conclusions.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 1541 Study on School District Spending and Student Outcomes

Senate Bill 1541 directs the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a study on expenditure variations among school districts. The study will review how K-12 dollars are spent (instruction, transportation, support services, etc.) what factors shape this spending (class sizes, staff levels, compensation, student demographics, etc.), and how this relates to student outcomes (attendance, absenteeism and graduation rates). The study report required by SB 1541 can provide useful data to lawmakers, districts and the public about best practices -- contributing to sound investments based on what works for students.

HB 4033 Equity in Education: Culturally Competent Teaching

In 2015, the Legislature passed the "Educators Equity Act" which updated the Minority Teacher Act of 1991, reflecting the state's commitment to equity in opportunity and cultural competence in Oregon's schools. House Bill 4033 makes it clear that funding currently distributed under the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning can be directed toward advancing the Educators Equity Act, with the aim of improving cultural competence of educators and ensuring educators are trained in culturally relevant educational practices.

HB 4057 Improving Outcomes for Students Experiencing Poverty

House Bill 4057 requires the Oregon Department of Education to study and report on how school districts spend additional funds received to support children in poverty. The report will identify what best practices, programs and services are used across the state to increase achievement and improve outcomes for students from families experiencing poverty.

HB 4021 Student Loan Debt Study

Since 2004, total student loan debt has ballooned from \$350 billion to approximately \$1.2 trillion, and outstanding student debt has surpassed the amount that American households owe on auto loans, home equity loans and credit cards. House Bill 4021 directs the State Treasurer and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study and explore approaches for lowering interest rates on student loans in Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 4075 Statewide Student Safety Tip Line

House Bill 4075 allocates \$1 million to establish a statewide student safety tip line, operated by the Oregon State Police. The tip line will field confidential reports on threats – which can include harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying and threats of violence or self-harm – from any student or community member, and OSP will work with behavioral health service providers to determine best practices for responding to these reports.

HB 4076 Supporting Student Success in the Oregon Promise Program

In 2015, the Legislature established the Oregon Promise program, a tuition assistance program to help students cover the cost of a community college education. House Bill 4076 strengthens the Oregon Promise program and improves the likelihood of student success by requiring all Oregon Promise students to complete an approved first-year experience and requiring community colleges to provide support services for Oregon Promise students. HB 4076 allocates nearly \$1.7 million to support these aims in an effort to maximize the success and effectiveness of the Oregon Promise program.

SB 1544 Extending Unemployment Insurance Eligibility for Apprentices

Apprenticeship programs are a key way for many to gain middle-class financial security. For some apprenticeship programs in Oregon, like sheetmetal workers, the unpaid classroom training program lasts longer than the amount of time an individual is eligible for unemployment insurance. To ensure apprentices across trades are able to receive wages or unemployment benefits for the full duration of their training, Senate Bill 1544 extends this window of eligibility from five to ten weeks.

SB 1558 Protecting Student Confidentiality

Senate Bill 1558 limits when and how a college or university can disclose student health and mental health records. The bill will help ensure that when a college student accesses health care or counseling on their campus, they can do so with confidence that their records and information will be protected. Though this safeguard is critical to any student, it is particularly meaningful for students experiencing violence, abuse or trauma, who depend on trusted campus services to protect their privacy.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 1540 Encouraging Math Studies in Oregon

Mathematics education has been associated with higher earning potential and valuable applied skills across disciplines. Senate Bill 1540 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to conduct a study to evaluate effective methods for increasing the number of students in mathematics-related majors studying at Oregon's universities. The HECC may consider a tuition waiver program for math majors and will report back to the Legislature in 2017 on the study's conclusions.

SB 4022 Addressing the Shortage of Speech-Language Pathology Services in Oregon's Schools

In response to a shortage of providers, in 2007 the Legislature passed a bill to allow retired public employees to work an unlimited number of hours as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) or SLP assistant for a school district without any loss of retirement benefits. That exemption expired on January 2, 2016. House Bill 4022 reinstates the exemption, allowing it to continue until 2026 to address the long-term shortage of SLP services in Oregon's public schools, particularly in rural areas.

HB 4023 Protecting School Stability for Students

Under current law, when a school district boundary changes there is no clear right for a student to remain in the school they attended prior to the boundary change. House Bill 4023 protects students from this kind of disruption by allowing them to stay in the school they were enrolled in prior to a boundary change, so long as they remain enrolled in that school and their residential address doesn't change.

HB 4082 Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

House Bill 4082 closes a loophole in Oregon's laws to better protect victims of sex trafficking. The bill expands the crime of promoting prostitution to include bartering goods, services or anything of value in exchange for prostitution services, rather than strictly an exchange of money, as is in current statute. The bill comes at the recommendation of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Work Group, which meets regularly with stakeholders to address the needs of sex trafficking victims, many of whom are minors.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

HB 4021 Student Loan Debt Study

Since 2004, total student loan debt has ballooned from \$350 billion to approximately \$1.2 trillion, and outstanding student debt has surpassed the amount that American households owe on auto loans, home equity loans and credit cards. House Bill 4021 directs the State Treasurer and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study and explore approaches for lowering interest rates on student loans in Oregon.

HB 4080 Child Foster Care Advisory Commission

House Bill 4080 establishes the Child Foster Care Advisory Commission to advise, study and report to the Governor and the Department of Human Services on Oregon's foster care system, and to recommend legislation. The Commission will include foster parents and children, advocates, juvenile dependency attorneys and other stakeholders who work on foster care issues.

HB 4072 Catalyzing University Research into Successful Business Enterprises

Since 2007, the University Venture Development Fund tax credit has helped to convert the research conducted at Oregon's public universities into new businesses. In addition to income tax revenue generated by new jobs, universities repay the state with revenue earned by UVDF-sponsored companies. House Bill 4072 extends the tax credit for University Venture Development Fund contributions through 2021 and increases the annual taxpayer credit cap from \$50,000 to \$600,000.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Education & Kids (*continued*)

SB 1515 Children's Safety and Dignity Act of 2016

Senate Bill 1515 -- the 2016 Children's Safety and Dignity Act -- takes steps to improve the safety of kids in state-licensed residential foster care. SB 1515 makes statutory changes to improve the accountability of the Department of Human Services and licensed child-caring agencies. The bill sets forth clear criteria and standards for licensed providers and specifies actions DHS can and must take if a program is not in compliance. The bill also expands the definition of a child to include those who are 18 to 20 years old -- who are often included among youth in care -- and specifies that a failure to investigate or take other action when concerns arise may constitute official misconduct. SB 1515 backs these commitments with an allocation of nearly \$900,000 for the 2015-17 biennium to support new licensing, investigatory and enforcement staff within DHS and the Department of Justice.

SB 1586 Improving Student Access to Voting

Senate Bill 1586 directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information for their students. These higher education institutions will provide more information to student groups that provide nonpartisan registration services and voter education presentations. The bill requires the Secretary of State to ensure there is at least one designated official ballot drop site location within 4 miles of each public university and community college campus.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services

SB 1515 Children's Safety and Dignity Act of 2016

Senate Bill 1515 -- the 2016 Children's Safety and Dignity Act -- takes steps to improve the safety of kids in state-licensed residential foster care. SB 1515 makes statutory changes to improve the accountability of the Department of Human Services and licensed child-caring agencies. The bill sets forth clear criteria and standards for licensed providers and specifies actions DHS can and must take if a program is not in compliance. The bill also expands the definition of a child to include those who are 18 to 20 years old -- who are often included among youth in care -- and specifies that a failure to investigate or take other action when concerns arise may constitute official misconduct. SB 1515 backs these commitments with an allocation of nearly \$900,000 for the 2015-17 biennium to support new licensing, investigatory and enforcement staff within DHS and the Department of Justice.

HB 4017 A Basic Health Program for Oregon

House Bill 4017 continues the work Oregon has undertaken over the past several years to explore the possibility of operating a "Basic Health Program", an option under the Affordable Care Act to provide health coverage to certain consumers who don't qualify for Medicaid, but don't quite make enough for commercial plans to be affordable. In 2015, the Legislature passed a bill to convene a workgroup to make recommendations to the Legislature on how a BHP should operate in Oregon. HB 4017 directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop a "blueprint" for BHP and apply for a state innovation waiver -- the next formal step in advancing a proposal -- and allocates \$415,000 to DCBS to pay for the planning and actuarial work.

SB 1503 Access to Affordable Primary and Mental Health Care

Oregon's Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants fill critical roles in our state's delivery of primary care and mental health services, especially in rural Oregon. In 2013, the Legislature enacted a law to ensure that these providers are reimbursed at the same rate as physicians for providing the same services. Senate Bill 1503 ensures that these essential providers can continue to deliver quality, cost-effective care in underserved areas by making this law permanent.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

SB 1514 Improving Oregon's Charitable Prescription Drug Program

Senate Bill 1514 is a simple fix to make a beneficial program even better at providing much needed prescription medications to vulnerable populations. Oregon's Charitable Prescription Drug Program currently serves many low-income and uninsured residents across the state. This bill will provide an additional pathway for donated prescription drugs to be made available to participating programs, while maintaining important quality safeguards -- a move that will improve the reach and positive impact of the program statewide.

SB 1558 Protecting Student Confidentiality

Senate Bill 1558 limits when and how a college or university can disclose student health and mental health records. The bill will help ensure that when a college student accesses health care or counseling on their campus, they can do so with confidence that their records and information will be protected. Though this safeguard is critical to any student, it is particularly meaningful for students experiencing violence, abuse or trauma, who depend on trusted campus services to protect their privacy.

SB 1504 Increasing Public Access to Physical Therapy Services

Senate Bill 1504 adopts an interstate Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, which will reduce barriers for physical therapists and physical therapy assistants looking to practice in states that adopt the compact. Oregon is the first state to adopt this compact, which is intended to increase public access to physical therapy services, to enhance the exchange of licensure, investigatory and disciplinary information between compact states, and to streamline licensing processes for qualified practitioners.

HB 4022 Addressing the Shortage of Speech-Language Pathology Services in Oregon's Schools

In response to a shortage of providers, in 2007 the Legislature passed a bill to allow retired public employees to work an unlimited number of hours as a speech-language pathologist or SLP assistant for a school district without any loss of retirement benefits. That exemption expired on January 2, 2016. House Bill 4022 reinstates the exemption, allowing it to continue until 2026 to address the long-term shortage of SLP services in Oregon's public schools, particularly in rural areas.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 4016 Supportive Services for Impaired Health Professionals

Oregon's Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP) provides a supportive alternative to formal discipline for licensed health professionals who have had significant workplace impairment related to behavioral health or substance use issues. Currently, the state Boards of Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Medical Board participate in the HPSP, and the Oregon Health Authority provides administration and contracting services. House Bill 4016 transfers administrative functions from OHA to the boards, which is estimated to save more than \$300,000 annually in costs to the state.

HB 4141 Continuity of Care for OHP Enrollees

House Bill 4141 allows the Oregon Health Authority to change the geographic area served by a coordinated care organization, when that CCO discontinues service and another CCO in the area is unable to cover the population of enrollees. This bill will help ensure that consumers enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan are not left without options for care in the event that their CCO ceases to continue operating.

HB 4105 Patient Safety: Informing Patients About Biosimilar Substitutes

Biosimilars are FDA-approved treatments that are sometimes substituted for biological products used to treat conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, psoriasis, and various forms of cancer. House Bill 4105 requires pharmacists to notify a patient's physician when a biosimilar is dispensed, through simple means, such as notation in an electronic medical record, or by phone or email. This communication between prescriber and pharmacist will help protect patient safety, without discouraging the use of biosimilars, which are often less expensive to patients and insurers than brand biologics.

HB 4080 Child Foster Care Advisory Commission

House Bill 4080 establishes the Child Foster Care Advisory Commission to advise, study and report to the Governor and the Department of Human Services on Oregon's foster care system, and to recommend legislation. The Commission will include foster parents and children, advocates, juvenile dependency attorneys and other stakeholders who work on foster care issues.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 4030 Emergency Medical Services Funding

House Bill 4030 requires the Oregon Health Authority to form a workgroup of Emergency Medical Services stakeholders to develop recommendations for OHA to better reimburse providers of EMS and transportation. Currently, the reimbursement rate for the care and transport of Medicaid patients is far below the cost of providing EMS and the demand for these services continues to grow, especially in rural Oregon. HB 4030 will help close the gap between inadequate current rates and the actual cost of service to EMS providers.

HB 4124 Tackling Oregon's Opioid Crisis: Promoting Smart Prescribing and Preventing Overdose

House Bill 4124 streamlines practitioner access to Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program by allowing for integration into existing health information technology systems — an improvement that will assist health care providers in identifying possible warning signs of opioid addiction. The bill also expands prescribing and dispensing of Naloxone, a life-saving prescription medication that reverses heroin and prescription opioid overdoses.

HB 4107 Supporting Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations

House Bill 4107 prohibits the Oregon Health Authority from retroactively changing the terms of a contract with a coordinated care organization, unless certain conditions are met. This bill will help improve business certainty for Oregon's 16 CCOs which provide care coordination for nearly all of the more than 1 million Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Human Services (*continued*)

HB 4042 “General Assistance” Program for Vulnerable Individuals

In 2005, Oregon discontinued funding for a state program called “general assistance”, which provided flexible benefits -- such as cash assistance, Oregon Health Plan Plus eligibility and case management -- to some of Oregon’s most vulnerable individuals who were applying for federal disability benefits. House Bill 4042 creates a limited general assistance pilot project, capped at 200 participants per month, for individuals who are homeless, enrolled in a medical assistance program and have a disability that likely would qualify them for federal Social Security Insurance or Social Security and Disability Insurance benefits. Participants will receive a payment of \$695 per month -- which would be recovered if and when the participant received SSI or SSDI benefits -- to be used for housing assistance, utilities, personal incidentals and to access help with applying for federal benefits.

HB 4071 COFA Premium Assistance Program

Currently, Micronesians, Palauans and the Marshallese are legally permitted to reside and work in the United States in exchange for the ongoing military use of these territories, including nuclear testing. This relationship began in the 1940s after World War II and is known as the “Compact of Free Association”. Despite legal residency status in the United States, COFA Pacific Islanders are barred from federal public benefit services, including Medicaid, even if they otherwise qualify based on income. House Bill 4071 establishes and funds a financial assistance program to help pay for premium costs and out-of-pocket expenses for low-income COFA Pacific Islanders who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid. With this new program, it is estimated that 1,500 COFA Pacific Islanders will no longer be uninsured or struggle to afford and maintain health care coverage.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon

SB 1547 Transitioning Oregon Away from Coal Energy

Senate Bill 1547 makes Oregon the first state to formally transition away from coal-fired electricity and toward cleaner, renewable energy. SB 1547 requires elimination of coal power from Oregon's energy sources by 2030 and requires half of all Oregon electricity to come from renewable sources by 2040. Additionally, SB 1547 invests in small-scale community renewable projects and electric vehicle infrastructure. It also modifies the eligibility requirements for biomass energy generation. The bill caps the annual rate increase for ratepayers at 4 percent and gives broad authority to the Public Utility Commission in regulating electric companies. SB 1547 is landmark legislation affirming our commitment to a clean, healthy energy future and economy for all Oregonians.

HB 4037 Building High-Production Solar Power Plants

House Bill 4037 directs the Oregon Business Development Department to establish a program to provide incentives for the construction of high-production solar power plants in Oregon. Building more solar energy facilities in Oregon will lead to a broader base of clean, renewable power and construction of the plants will provide hundreds of jobs in rural Oregon. The bill appropriates about \$1 million to OBDD for the creation of the incentive program.

HB 4084 Local Government Tax Incentive for Brownfield Cleanup

House Bill 4084 authorizes local governments to provide a property tax incentive program to clean up brownfield sites, which are contaminated parcels of property that are hazardous for humans and environmental health. The bill gives local governments the ability to create and shape their own tax incentive program to help communities overcome the high costs of brownfield cleanup and enable economic development, as well as improved property values and a better standard of living.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 4046 Enhancing Penalties for Poaching

House Bill 4046 cracks down on poachers by increasing penalties for unlawfully taking or killing certain game wildlife. The bill increases the maximum fine amount for illegally taking certain species and requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to revoke all licenses, tags and permits issued to those convicted of a first poaching offense. Upon an individual's second conviction within a 10-year period, the bill prohibits the individual from applying for or obtaining a license, tag or permit. Upon a third poaching conviction within 10 years, all guns, boats, vehicles, traps and other implements used in committing the offense are subject to civil forfeiture. This bill is designed to address a key problem for rural Oregon communities.

SB 1517 Encouraging Local Collaboration on Wetland Restoration Projects

Senate Bill 1517 creates a pilot project in Tillamook County to establish a more collaborative impact review process for wetland restoration projects. SB 1517 authorizes the pilot project for 10 years, giving the Legislature opportunity to review it before making it permanent.

SB 1563 Preventing Groundwater Contamination from Septic Systems

Senate Bill 1563 creates a loan funding program to make small-scale loans to homeowners and small businesses to repair or replace septic systems. If not properly maintained, septic systems can leak or fail, resulting in dangerous groundwater contamination. SB 1563 provides \$250,000 to the Department of Environmental Quality to administer the program. Reducing faulty septic systems will help the environment, as well as improve water quality and public health in rural areas.

SB 1529 Encouraging Water Conservation and Sustainable Use

Senate Bill 1529 prohibits enforcement of lawn-watering requirements set forth by Home Owners Associations during times of drought. This prohibition will only apply while a drought declaration is in effect, when the Water Resources Commission has issued a drought finding or a local jurisdiction has passed an ordinance curtailing water use.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Environment & Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 4060 Supporting Oregon's Growing Hemp Industry

In 2009, the Legislature authorized production of industrial hemp. With a wide variety of uses, hemp is a burgeoning agricultural commodity and represents significant economic development potential for communities across the state. House Bill 4060 makes a few changes to existing law governing hemp production, including minimum acreage, labeling and packaging standards and testing requirements.

HB 4113 Establishing Task Force on Drought Emergency Response

House Bill 4113 establishes a non-legislative Task Force on Drought Emergency Response to research and evaluate potential tools to prepare for or deal with drought emergencies. Activities for the Task Force can include evaluating sufficiency of existing tools to address short-term drought response and recommending additional tools; identifying options to minimize drought impacts to agriculture, municipal, fish and wildlife and other interests; identifying tools to assist small water providers in developing water management conservation and efficiency plans; identifying data and resources necessary for anticipating drought and related impacts; and recommending improvements in information sharing. The bill is an important step forward in better planning and coordination for drought, which has become an increasingly persistent problem statewide. In 2015, 25 counties received drought declarations, more than any other year since 1992.

HB 4146 Increases Lodging Tax to Support Oregon's Tourism Economy

House Bill 4146 increases revenue to the statewide tourism industry and provides flexibility for how lodging tax funds can be used to benefit regional economies. The bill raises the state transient lodging tax rate from the current 1 percent to 1.8 percent until the end of June 2020. In July 2021, the rate will be reduced to 1.5 percent. Current law requires the Oregon Tourism Commission to spend at least 80 percent of net tax receipts on state tourism marketing programs and allocates up to 15 percent to regional tourism marketing programs. Under HB 4146, 20 percent of revenues will be allocated to regional development and 10 percent to a matching grant fund for local tourism programs. The initial lodging tax increase is estimated to raise an additional \$27 million for the Oregon Tourism Commission over the 2017-19 biennium. These additional funds will benefit tourism destinations across the state such as the Columbia River Gorge, Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice

SB 1571 “Melissa’s Law”: Eliminating Oregon’s Rape Kit Backlog

Senate Bill 1571 -- named “Melissa’s Law” in honor of 14-year-old Melissa Bitler, who was raped and murdered in 2001 -- ensures accountability for the testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence kits by tightening timelines and standardizing the handling and retention of SAFE kits. The bill also makes law enforcement agencies more responsive to sexual assault victims by requiring agencies to have clear policies and personnel in place to work with victims.

SB 1600 Eliminating the Statute of Limitations for First-Degree Sex Crimes with New Evidence

Senate Bill 1600 authorizes the prosecution of first-degree sex crimes at any time after the crime is committed, if the prosecuting attorney obtains additional, corroborating evidence such as non-DNA physical evidence, such as a video or audio recording; confession by the defendant to that particular crime; statements by the victim made close in time to the alleged crime; or when multiple victims come forward alleging crimes similar enough to be on the same list of charges.

HB 4075 Statewide Student Safety Tip Line

House Bill 4075 allocates \$1 million to establish a statewide student safety tip line, operated by the Oregon State Police. The tip line will field confidential reports on threats – which can include harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying and threats of violence or self-harm – from any student or community member, and OSP will work with behavioral health service providers to determine best practices for responding to these reports.

SB 1567 Criminal Impersonation

Senate Bill 1567 closes a loophole in existing law by making it clear that it is a crime to impersonate someone with the intent to humiliate, harm or harass a person. SB 1567 provides an important mechanism to hold offenders, particularly those who use technology for violence or other harm, accountable for these kinds of abusive tactics. SB 1567 builds upon the necessary work the Legislature has undertaken in previous sessions to ensure that victims are protected in a fast-paced digital age.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 1554 Guidelines for Managing an Individual's "Digital Assets"

In today's day and age, many of us have online lives consisting of electronic information such as photographs, correspondence and important business records or other documents with significant financial value. When an individual dies or becomes disabled, they often leave behind this digital legacy for friends, family members and other designees to manage. Senate Bill 1554 enacts the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act, a national policy standard. The Act lays out clear guidelines, responsibilities and directives for account users to make clear their wishes for designees who are acting on the wishes of the person they represent, and for online providers who are often the custodians of these important digital assets.

***SB 1555 Pre-Employment Polygraph Testing of Law Enforcement Job Applicants**

Some law enforcement agencies across the nation use a polygraph test as a screening tool for candidates applying for law enforcement positions. This practice is prohibited in Oregon. Senate Bill 1555 would have permitted Oregon's law enforcement agencies to use polygraph testing during the hiring process to screen applicants.

HB 4014 Removing Residency Requirements, Helping Small Businesses, Adjusting Criminal Penalties, Protecting Kids and Patients

House Bill 4014 is an omnibus bill that updates laws governing Oregon's recreational and medical marijuana systems. It removes residency restrictions for individuals who own or invest in legal cannabis businesses in Oregon. It also creates a Youth Cannabis-use Prevention Pilot Program to prevent children and young adults from using cannabis. The bill reduces some criminal penalties related to a range of marijuana offenses and directs the state to treat medical cannabis use like the use of prescription drugs when setting conditions for pre-trial release, diversion, parole and probation. HB 4014 also allows veterans who have a qualifying medical condition to access medical marijuana cards at the same price as low-income individuals.

**Measure passed in the Senate; subsequently did not pass in the House*

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 4003 Extending the 2015 Law Enforcement Profiling Work Group

In 2015, the Legislature passed a measure prohibiting profiling by law enforcement in Oregon and creating the Law Enforcement Profiling Work Group. This group was directed to explore methods to identify patterns or practices of profiling -- including ways to address and correct these practices -- and to report back on their recommendations. House Bill 4003 comes as a consensus request from the work group, having completed its initial charge in 2015. The measure extends the Law Enforcement Profiling Work Group until 2017 to allow for continued work on initial recommendations and concepts forged by the work group.

SB 1513 Supporting Surviving Spouses of Oregon's Emergency Responders and Public Safety Officers

Senate Bill 1513 authorizes counties to exempt property taxes for up to \$250,000 of assessed property value for homes owned and occupied by a surviving spouse of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty.

HB 4082 Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

House Bill 4082 closes a loophole in Oregon's laws to better protect victims of sex trafficking. The bill expands the crime of promoting prostitution to include bartering goods, services or anything of value in exchange for prostitution services, rather than strictly an exchange of money, as is in current statute. The bill comes at the recommendation of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Work Group, which meets regularly with stakeholders to address the needs of sex trafficking victims, many of whom are minors.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

SB 1511 Expanded Access to Legal Cannabis, Protecting Patients, Improving Early Start

Senate Bill 1511 will help patients maintain access to medicine, increase efficiency for businesses and support careful tracking of cannabis products. The bill enables Oregon Liquor Control Commission licensees to obtain a single license allowing them to produce/process/sell both adult-use and medical products within the OLCC-licensed system. All products within this OLCC-licensed system will be tracked from seed-to-sale. In addition, SB 1511 will give medical marijuana program growers transitioning to the OLCC system a small bump upward in their canopy limit and allow them to continue growing for their existing patients, if they choose to do so. SB 1511 also expands the items available in early start sales to include single-serving, low-dose edibles and concentrates.

HB 4102 Probate Modernization

Oregon adopted its probate statutes -- which serve to guide the legal process after the death of an individual -- in 1969, and they have not undergone a thorough review since that time. House Bill 4102 updates laws related to intestacy, wills and estate administration to ensure our laws are clear and relevant, especially in light of technological and social changes that have affected the way people handle their property after death.

HB 4142 Clear Identification for Private Security Professionals

House Bill 4142 prohibits private security companies from using a name that implies that the company is affiliated with an existing law enforcement, public safety or Armed Forces agency -- an important provision to prevent confusion among consumers or the public at large. The regulation won't force existing companies to change their names.

HB 4094 Supporting Oregon's Cannabis Business in the Banking Industry

House Bill 4094 ensures that financial institutions providing banking and credit services to lawful cannabis businesses will not be subject to state criminal liability based solely on those services. As cannabis is a Schedule I federally controlled substance, financial institutions providing banking service to cannabis businesses often encounter difficulties. HB 4094 eliminates risk at the state level.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

***SB 1553 Justice for Injured Vulnerable Road Users and Protection for Crime Victims' Families from further Trauma**

Senate Bill 1553 would have improved safety for pedestrians, cyclists, law enforcement and construction workers by creating a new category of criminally negligent third-degree assault for cases in which a vulnerable road user of a public roadway suffers serious physical injury caused by criminally negligent actions of a motor vehicle operator. SB 1553 also included a provision to prohibit the public disclosure of death scene investigation images when release of these images would present an unreasonable invasion of privacy for the victim or their family.

HB 4066 Regulating Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone) Safety

Since 2013, the Oregon Legislature has advanced legislation to address concerns raised by the emerging technology of "unmanned aircraft systems" (UASs, or "drones") in Oregon. House Bill 4066 continues to provide guidance and restrictions on this technology by prohibiting the "weaponizing" of UASs and creating a new violation for interfering with the flight of another aircraft. HB 4066 also requires public bodies that use UASs to develop policies and procedures for safeguarding the information gathered from UAS operations.

HB 4074 Protecting Access to Juvenile Court Records

Current Oregon law includes a provision that "any other person allowed by the court" may inspect and/or copy juvenile court files on a case-by-case basis. House Bill 4074 addresses concerns that this provision may not provide enough direction as to who should be entitled to access these sensitive records. HB 4074 outlines clear parameters for requesting to access juvenile records and provides guidance to the court in determining when and how access shall be granted, with privacy considerations in mind.

**Measure passed in the Senate; subsequently did not pass in the House*

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 4030 Emergency Medical Services Funding

House Bill 4030 requires the Oregon Health Authority to form a workgroup of Emergency Medical Services stakeholders to develop recommendations for OHA to better reimburse providers of EMS and transportation. Currently, the reimbursement rate for the care and transport of Medicaid patients is far below the cost of providing EMS and the demand for these services continues to grow, especially in rural Oregon. HB 4030 will help close the gap between inadequate current rates and the actual cost of service to EMS providers.

SB 4044 Modernizing Recordkeeping Regulations for Pawnbrokers

Currently, pawnbrokers must keep a log of every transaction made in a pawn shop -- in electronic or paper form -- and transmit these records to local law enforcement. For firearms transactions specifically, a hard copy of the record must be hand-delivered or mailed to local law enforcement on the same day as the purchase. House Bill 4044 reduces this regulatory burden on pawnbrokers by allowing any registers -- including firearms transaction records -- to be kept and delivered to law enforcement in electronic form.

HB 4093 Modernizing Courthouse Facilities

Many courthouses throughout Oregon are in dire need of rebuilding or retrofitting to ensure safety and seismic resilience. House Bill 4093 allows circuit courts to impose a \$5 surcharge on parking and traffic fines to help a county finance courthouse capital construction projects that are partially funded in the state budget.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Public Safety & Justice (*continued*)

HB 4009 Honoring an Oregon Hero

House Bill 4009 designates March 28 of each year as Minoru Yasui Day, to honor this extraordinary Oregonian. Yasui was a Japanese American, born in 1916 in Hood River. He was the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Oregon School of Law, the first Japanese American member of the Oregon State Bar and also an officer in the United State Army. During World War II, he challenged a military curfew in Portland and turned himself in to police to test the constitutionality of those regulations. As a result he was incarcerated for nine months in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County jail. Later he was transferred to the Minidoka American concentration camp in Idaho. In 2015, Min Yasui was posthumously awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama, the highest civilian award in the country. Yasui is Oregon's only recipient of this high honor. Yasui Day was designated to honor the contributions of Minori Yasui as a lifelong civil rights leader in Oregon and nationwide.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Cannabis Legalization

HB 4014 Removing Residency Requirements, Helping Small Businesses, Adjusting Criminal Penalties, Protecting Kids and Patients

House Bill 4014 is an omnibus bill that updates laws governing Oregon's recreational and medical marijuana systems. It removes residency restrictions for individuals who own or invest in legal cannabis businesses in Oregon. It also creates a Youth Cannabis-Use Prevention Pilot Program to prevent children and young adults from using cannabis. The bill reduces some criminal penalties related to a range of marijuana offenses and directs the state to treat medical cannabis use like the use of prescription drugs when setting conditions for pre-trial release, diversion, parole and probation. HB 4014 also allows veterans who have a qualifying medical condition to access medical marijuana cards at the same price as low-income individuals.

SB 1511 Expanded Access to Legal Cannabis, Protecting Patients, Improving Early Start

Senate Bill 1511 will help patients maintain access to medicine, increase efficiency for businesses and support careful tracking of cannabis products. The bill enables the Oregon Liquor Control Commission licensees to obtain a single license allowing them to produce/process/sell both adult-use and medical products within the OLCC-licensed system. All products within this OLCC-licensed system will be tracked from seed-to-sale. In addition, SB 1511 will give medical marijuana program growers transitioning to the OLCC system a small bump upward in their canopy limit and allow them to continue growing for their existing patients, if they choose to do so. SB 1511 also expands the items available in early start sales to include single-serving, low-dose edibles and concentrates.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Cannabis Legalization(*continued*)

SB 1598 Helping Small Cannabis Growers, Authorizing Creation of Nonprofit License, Worker's Protections

Senate Bill 1598 will allow small growers who were registered before February 1, 2016, to obtain a micro-canopy license from Oregon Liquor Control Commission, even if they cannot provide a Land-Use Compatibility Statement. SB 1598 also expressly allows local governments to conduct reasonable time, place and manner regulation of cannabis crops within their jurisdictions. In addition, SB 1598 authorizes the OHA to develop a nonprofit license that would allow a private nonprofit entity to help medical patients access medicine. It also helps protect workers in the cannabis sector from criminal liability by requiring them to take a test to confirm their understanding of applicable laws.

SB 1601 Tax Free Sales to OMMP Patients and OHA Business Tax Deductions

Senate Bill 1601 allows Oregon Medical Marijuana Program patients to buy tax-free cannabis in Oregon Liquor Control Commission-licensed businesses like they may in dispensaries that are regulated by the Oregon Healthy Authority. In addition, SB 1601 extends to OHA-regulated cannabis businesses a business tax deduction that operators of OLCC-licensed cannabis businesses may take, correcting an oversight from the 2015 legislative session.

HB 4094 Supporting Oregon's Cannabis Business in the Banking Industry

House Bill 4094 ensures that financial institutions providing banking and credit services to lawful cannabis businesses will not be subject to state criminal liability based solely on those services. As marijuana is a Schedule I federally controlled substance, financial institutions providing banking service to cannabis businesses often encounter difficulties. HB 4094 eliminates risk at the state level.

SB 1524 Improving Ease of Access to Medical Marijuana Veterans

Under current law, individuals with valid medical marijuana cards are required to see a physician annually to maintain their eligibility. Senate Bill 1524 creates an exception to this requirement for 100 percent permanently disabled veterans, removing an unnecessary barrier by ensuring that these former service members don't have to complete this process annually.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Seniors & Veterans

HJR 202 Funding for Veterans Services

House Joint Resolution 202 will send a measure to the November ballot to dedicate 1.5 percent of lottery funds to outreach services to connect Oregon's 350,000 veterans to federally funded services like health care, housing assistance and mental health services.

SB 1524 Improving Ease of Access to Medical Marijuana Veterans

Under current law, individuals with valid medical marijuana cards are required to see a physician annually to maintain their eligibility. Senate Bill 1524 creates an exception to this requirement for 100 percent permanently disabled veterans, removing an unnecessary barrier by ensuring that these former service members don't have to complete this process annually.

HB 4143 Predictability and Stability for Oregon Renters

House Bill 4143 provides more predictability for Oregon renters with month-to-month tenancies by prohibiting landlords from increasing rent during the first year and requiring at least 90-day notification for any rent increases after that. By stabilizing rent within the first year of a tenancy and providing more notice for tenants in month-to-month rental agreements prior to rent increases, HB 4143 will allow individuals and families reasonable time to plan around their housing expenses.

HB 4081 Preserving Existing Low-Income Housing

House Bill 4081 extends the sunset on an existing property tax exemption which allows certain nonprofit providers of affordable housing to continue operating low-income housing properties at a sustainable cost. The bill extends the sunset through 2022 -- maintaining the status quo for owners, residents and local jurisdictions -- to allow nearly 2,000 low-income housing units to remain affordable while the Legislature determines how best to approach this current exemption.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Transportation & Infrastructure

HB 4048 Investing in Local Transportation Infrastructure

House Bill 4048 reallocates moneys appropriated in the Jobs and Transportation Act of 2009. HB 4048 transfers funds to Interstate 5/Kuebler Blvd. Junction Project, Interstate 5/Highway 214 Project and Highway 6/Highway 101 Project.

SB 1527 Ensuring Efficiency and Accountability for Transit Riders

Senate Bill 1527 makes changes benefitting public transit riders throughout Oregon by ensuring that funds placed on an eFare card will remain in the account and available to the rider in perpetuity, regardless of length of inactivity.

SB 1512 Funding Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program Costs

Senate Bill 1512 specifies that certain bonds -- which currently are issued to finance the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program in the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) -- may also be used to pay for surveying and engineering evaluations of seismic rehabilitation projects and to pay agency program administrative costs related to the grant program.

SB 1523 Maximizing Fuel Availability to Emergency Responders During a Disaster

Senate Bill 1523 establishes the Fuel Storage Facility Compatibility Fund, allowing the Office of Emergency Management to provide grants to install generator connectors on fuel sources at Oregon cardlock facilities. In the event of an emergency or disaster, these devices will help first responders and emergency personnel get fuel, which may otherwise be inaccessible.

SB 1563 Preventing Groundwater Contamination from Septic Systems

Senate Bill 1563 creates a loan funding program to make small-scale loans to homeowners and small businesses to repair or replace septic systems. If not properly maintained, septic systems can leak or fail, resulting in dangerous groundwater contamination. SB 1563 provides \$250,000 to the Department of Environmental Quality to administer the program. Reducing faulty septic systems will help the environment, as well as improve water quality and public health in rural areas.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Transportation & Infrastructure (*continued*)

SB 1547 Transitioning Oregon Away from Coal Energy

Senate Bill 1547 makes Oregon the first state to formally transition away from coal-fired electricity and toward cleaner, renewable energy. SB 1547 requires elimination of coal power from Oregon's energy sources by 2030 and requires half of all Oregon electricity to come from renewable sources by 2040. Additionally, SB 1547 invests in small-scale community renewable projects and electric vehicle infrastructure. It also modifies the eligibility requirements for biomass energy generation. The bill caps the annual rate increase for ratepayers at 4 percent and gives broad authority to the Public Utility Commission in regulating electric companies. SB 1547 is landmark legislation affirming our commitment to a clean and healthy economy for all Oregonians.

HB 4093 Modernizing Courthouse Facilities

Many courthouses throughout Oregon are in dire need of rebuilding or retrofitting to ensure safety and seismic resilience. House Bill 4093 allows circuit courts to impose a \$5 surcharge on parking and traffic fines to help a county finance courthouse capital construction projects that are partially funded in the state budget.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability

HB 4135 Improving Government Transparency by Enhancing Public Records Requests

House Bill 4135 promotes transparency in state government by requiring the Department of Administrative Services to coordinate efforts of fulfilling public requests for records. The bill also requires DAS to coordinate requests when multiple executive department agencies receive requests for electronic records in the department's custody.

HB 4067 Protecting Whistleblowers in Public and Nonprofit Sectors

House Bill 4067 creates a new set of legal protections for whistleblowers and makes clear that these protections apply to all public and nonprofit employees and board members. The bill will promote transparency, helping to ensure that employees can safely report abuse, crimes and other serious misconduct in their workplace without fearing retaliation or discipline as a result of their disclosures.

SB 1515 Children's Safety and Dignity Act of 2016

Senate Bill 1515 -- the 2016 Children's Safety and Dignity Act -- takes steps to improve the safety of kids in state-licensed residential foster care. SB 1515 makes statutory changes to improve the accountability of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and licensed child-caring agencies. The bill sets forth clear criteria and standards for licensed providers and specifies actions DHS can and must take if a program is not in compliance. The bill also expands the definition of a child to include those who are 18 to 20 years old -- who are often included among youth in care -- and specifies that a failure to investigate or take other action when concerns arise may constitute official misconduct. SB 1515 backs these commitments with an allocation of nearly \$900,000 for the 2015-17 biennium to support new licensing, investigatory and enforcement staff within DHS and the Department of Justice.

HB 4134 Increasing Transparency Through Lobbyist Disclosure of Clients

House Bill 4134 increases government transparency by requiring lobbyists to report new clients to the Oregon Ethics Commission within three days of hire.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

SB 1539 Financial Oversight of State IT Projects

Senate Bill 1539 improves government accountability by requiring state agencies to provide the state's Chief Information Officer and Legislative Fiscal Office with a copy of any cost analysis for information technology services projects. Currently, prior to procuring services over \$250,000, state agencies must undertake a cost analysis process to compare the potential costs for a project with in-house resources vs. those provided by a contractor. SB 1539 ensures that Oregon's CIO and LFO have the information they need to oversee IT project procurement and ensure resources are allocated wisely.

SB 1538 Information Security Oversight

Information security incidents within Oregon's state agencies have increased recently -- as have the agency budget requests to deal with these incidents. Senate Bill 1538 ensures that when these breaches or vulnerabilities occur, state agencies are required to notify the Legislative Fiscal Office promptly and provide LFO with results of IS assessments. SB 1538 also requires heads of specific state agencies to report annually on IS to the Legislature. These requirements will ensure that the Legislature can effectively fulfill its oversight and appropriation obligations.

SB 1591 Insurance Transparency for Consumers and Regulators

Senate Bill 1591 authorizes the Department of Consumer and Business Services to provide information about complaints received against an insurer for an unlawful trade practice. This authorization protects consumers by removing any personally identifying information prior to release, but provides an additional tool for consumers and regulators when choosing an insurance policy.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

SB 1541 Study on School District Spending and Student Outcomes

Senate Bill 1541 directs the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a study on expenditure variations among school districts. The study will review how K-12 dollars are spent (instruction, transportation, support services, etc.) what factors shape this spending (class sizes, staff levels, compensation, student demographics, etc.), and how this relates to student outcomes (attendance, absenteeism and graduation rates). The study report required by SB 1541 can provide useful data to lawmakers, districts and the public about best practices. SB 1541 assists in making sound investments based on what works for students.

HB 4127 Updating Oregon's Marriage Statutes

House Bill 4127 updates language in Oregon's marriage statutes to fix a discrepancy between the recognized law of the land – the freedom to marry – and outdated, unenforceable language in Oregon's state statutes that defines marriage as only between a husband and wife. HB 4127 implements necessary gender-neutral language to ensure all couples who are married in Oregon have the same privileges, immunities, rights, benefits and responsibilities under the law.

HB 4106 Ensuring Agency Accountability and Oversight

House Bill 4106 requires all state agencies to report annually to the Legislature on information related to the use of temporary rulemaking. This new requirement ensures the Legislature and Oregonians are apprised of agency rules and actions.

SB 1537 Promoting Higher Education Access: "Post-Graduate Scholar" Programs

Senate Bill 1537 allows school districts to receive and spend some State School Fund dollars to support "Post-Graduate Scholar" programs (fifth-year programs), which allow certain students who have already earned a high school diploma to earn community college credits while staying connected to important support systems and resources within their school district. SB 1537 allows successful local programs to continue, supports new statewide higher education programs -- like the Oregon Promise tuition assistance program -- and ensures accountability by requiring stakeholders to return to the Legislature with alternative proposals for funding Post-Graduate Scholar programs with a source outside of the K-12 budget.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Government Accountability (*continued*)

SB 1569 Legislative Policy and Research Committee

Senate Bill 1569 establishes a new office in the Legislative Assembly to provide policy and research support to individual legislators and committees. The bill also establishes a new committee -- the Joint Policy and Research Committee -- to hire the office's director and oversee its operations. The Senate President and the House Speaker will appoint an equal number of Democrats and Republicans to the committee.

HB 4107 Supporting Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations

House Bill 4107 prohibits the Oregon Health Authority from retroactively changing the terms of a contract with a coordinated care organization, unless certain conditions are met. This bill will help improve business certainty for Oregon's 16 CCOs which provide care coordination for nearly all of the more than 1 million Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Balanced Budget

During the 2016 Legislative Session, Oregon Senate Democrats adjusted the state budget in order to protect investments in education, health care and public safety. We responded to unpredictable events and crises by giving additional resources to essential state services to help mitigate the harm to Oregon communities and to improve our resiliency for future emergencies. We carefully planned our management of taxpayer funds by ensuring that our state is prepared to address financial needs as they arise.

Balancing the Budget

Legislators rebalanced agency budgets to protect priority investments in key state service areas. After adjustments, the General Fund's ending balance is projected to be approximately \$225 million. In addition to other reserves, the rebalanced budget prepares our state to address emergent financial needs when they arise throughout the duration of the budget cycle.

Highlights of the 2016 State Budget Adjustments

Education

- Protected our investment of \$7.36 billion in Oregon's K-12 schools
- \$1 million for a new School Safety Tip Line
- \$5.3 million for Oregon Pre-Kindergarten
- \$5.4 million for Early Intervention/Early Childhood special education

Jobs & Economy

- \$2.5 million for the American Manufacturing Innovation District, a partnership led by Portland Community College to promote advanced manufacturing and job training in Oregon
- Allocated approximately \$1 million to Business Oregon to provide incentives for the development of solar power plants in Oregon
- \$250,000 to the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a septic repair loan program
- \$400,000 to Business Oregon for a Port Orford Cannery Building
- \$3 million to the City of Warrenton to rebuild a dock at the site of a seafood processing facility that burned down in 2013
- \$650,000 to Salem Area Mass Transit District for bus passes for state employees working in the Capitol Mall area

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2016 Session Accomplishments

Balanced Budget (*continued*)

Public Safety

- \$21 million to address the 2015 fire season costs
- \$2 million to reimburse Harney County for public safety costs for January's armed occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- \$2 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to assist Umpqua Community College after the tragic shooting in October
- \$4.25 million to the HECC to upgrade Snyder Hall at Umpqua Community College
- \$5.5 million to prepare Deer Ridge Correctional Facility for possible opening to house inmates
- \$1.5 million to Oregon State Police for reducing backlog and testing new sexual assault forensic evidence kits

Environment and Natural Resources

- \$2.5 million to the Department of Environmental Quality to expand the Oregon Air Toxics Program
- \$540,000 to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for Gypsy Moth Eradication Program
- \$250,000 to the DEQ for study of market-based carbon reduction system
- \$705,000 to the Oregon Water Resources Department for Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Study

Protecting Vulnerable Oregonians

- \$675,000 to the Department of Justice for Elder Abuse Investigation and Prosecution
- \$2 million to the State Homeless Assistance Program to increase support for homeless shelters
- \$8 million in Emergency Housing Assistance for community agencies around the state
- \$2.7 million to the Housing and Community Services Department for Mortgage Foreclosure Counseling
- \$200,000 to Legal Aid to assist low-income Oregonians with housing issues
- \$2.5 million in lottery bonds for preservation of existing affordable housing
- \$130,000 to the Oregon Food Bank to purchase a refrigerating truck to support a food recovery program for hunger relief
- \$1.6 million to the Department of Human Services to establish a general assistance program that gives cash payments to up to 200 homeless individuals with a disability each month
- Health Care for Children: \$900,000 of one-time General Fund money for planning and start-up costs related to providing medical assistance for additional children in Oregon
- \$8.2 million General Fund allocation for architectural and staffing changes at the Oregon State Penitentiary
- \$2 million to the Department of Corrections to finance continued activities and positions associated with improvements to housing and treatment for the seriously mentally ill