



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Press Contact:

Elizabeth Cronen, elizabeth.cronen@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Senate Bill Sets Out Clear Steps for Tribes to Restore Jurisdiction Over Criminal and Civil Matters

Legislation connects Tribes to an option first created in federal law in 1968

SALEM, OR – Legislation passed in the Oregon Senate today will give Oregon Tribes a clear and timely process for restoring jurisdiction over criminal and civil matters on Tribal lands. Today there is no official or accountable procedure for Tribal nations to secure this authority.

“This bill is about respect and partnership,” said **Senator Anthony Broadman (D – Bend)**, explaining on the Senate floor that Oregon originally gained control over legal matters on Tribal lands in the 1950s because of a U.S. government effort to dissolve Tribal nations completely.

“The current policy grew from a dark chapter in our history,” **Senator Broadman** continued. “This bill is about living up to our obligations to Oregon’s sovereign Tribal nations.”

Prior to this legislation, both the federal government and Oregon law allowed “retrocession”—the state releasing its jurisdiction—but gave no way for the Tribes to initiate it. Returning civil and criminal jurisdiction to pre-1950s status has relied on each governor’s individual discretion and political will. Senator Broadman worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to bring the bill to the Senate.

“This bill provides a clear process to correct a long-standing wrong imposed without our consent,” said Gary I. Burke, board chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. “SB 1011 honors our inherent rights and strengthens the government-to-government relationship we’ve fought to uphold.”

The legislation specifies that federally recognized Tribes in Oregon can submit requests to the governor for return of legal authorities. The measure sets out a swift timeline for subsequent action: the governor must acknowledge the request, meet with the Tribe, and decide whether to accept the request within 180 days. When the governor grants a request, the executive must notify the federal government within 10 days.

The vote on the Oregon Senate floor was 28 to 0. The measure goes next to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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