



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Prevailing wage means good-paying jobs on university improvements

HB 2646A clarifies that prevailing wage law will apply to Oregon University System projects

SALEM—This morning, the Oregon Senate passed a bill to ensure that more workers on state projects receive the appropriate level of compensation and benefits. House Bill 2646A, which passed on a 27-2 vote with one excused, ensures that contractors for construction projects in the Oregon University System (OUS) use prevailing wage laws that benefit workers and Oregon's economy.

“Extending prevailing wages to university contracts will result in high quality and cost-effective work while protecting wages and compensation for employees,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Communities benefit when projects use prevailing wage, and HB 2646A will help more Oregonians get to work with good-paying jobs.”

Oregon's prevailing wage law is designed to ensure competent work, efficient use of state resources, and competition among qualified contractors while maintaining compensation standards that fit the surrounding community. The intent of HB 2646A is to make certain that construction projects at Oregon's universities comply with the state policy that publicly funded works use prevailing wage.

“Workers on university projects from La Grande to Monmouth should receive proper compensation and benefits for the hard work they do to modernize our campuses,” said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), who led the floor discussion on the bill. “This principle is especially important as schools like Oregon State University and Oregon Institute of Technology expand their geographical reach with new campuses.”

Oregon is one of 32 states that currently have a prevailing wage law that is modeled after the federal Davis-Bacon Act. The Bureau of Labor and Industries is responsible for enforcing this law in Oregon and for providing resources to help contractors and agencies comply with prevailing wage requirements.

The bill now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for a concurrence motion.

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