



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Tax enforcement measures will help fund schools and vital state services** *SB 5538 authorizes the Department of Revenue to use new methods to collect \$33 million in taxes owed*

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate approved increased enforcement measures for the Department of Revenue to collect taxes owed, which will mean millions of dollars in additional funding for Oregon schools and vital state services. Senate Bill 5538, the budget bill for the Department of Revenue, passed on a vote of 20-10.

The budget bill provides the Department with additional enforcement positions with the directive to reduce underreporting by taxpayers through more audits and filing enforcement. The new positions will also enable the Department to increase collections for taxes that are past due.

“The gap between what taxpayers owe and what is collected takes a big toll on programs that families and small businesses need,” said Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-Beaverton), who carried SB 5538 on the Senate floor. “This budget beefs up collection of debts from people that don’t pay their taxes, giving Oregonians more funding for education, health care, human services, and public safety.”

The Legislative Revenue Office estimates that SB 5538 will bring in more than \$33 million to the General Fund, which supports allocations to Oregon schools and critical state services that vulnerable Oregonians depend on.

“Taxpayers who work hard and play by the rules should not see their schools, senior care, and public safety programs cut because we lack the resources to hold people who don’t pay their taxes accountable,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum. “With this budget bill, we can close the tax gap between what’s owed and what’s paid, ensure that everyone is paying their fair share, and direct much-needed funding to schools and critical services.”

Senate Bill 5538 now heads over to the Oregon House of Representatives for a vote.

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