



Oregon Senate Republicans

PRESS RELEASE

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May 2, 2019

Contact: Kate Gillem

503-986-1952

Gross Receipts Tax Passes House Disguised as Student Success Bill

SALEM, Ore. – Last night, the House of Representatives passed HB3427, a back-door gross receipts tax on Oregon businesses, disguised as a bill that will benefit education.

In a blatant attempt at ignoring Oregon voters, the Majority party is working to pass a backdoor sales tax with the same goal as Measure 97 – to tax businesses on their gross annual sales. Yet another example of parliamentary tricks, having supermajority is bad for Oregon because they can pass legislation that impacts citizens, businesses, and educators on a large scale without a single Republican vote.

“I agree that funding education is top priority,” said Senate Republican Leader Herman Baertschiger, Jr. (R-Grants Pass) of the legislation. “The reason this bill is on the fast-track is because the Democrats want to get it through before Oregonians even know what happened.”

In the over 7-hour floor debate in the House, the Democrats referred to HB3427 as “historic,” but at the next biennium when the state budget is identified, the funds the majority party claims will go to education programs that desperately need revenue, will instead be siphoned off to cover the state’s nearly \$27 billion deficit in the Oregon’s Public Employee Retirement System, commonly known as PERS. As a result, Oregon’s education will continue to be subpar and the state will be billions of dollars more in debt.

The bill will be voted on in the Senate next week.

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