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Oregon braces for tax tsunami

SALEM-Despite the overwhelmingly rejection of Measure 97 and the availability of \$1.3 billion in new revenue next biennium, an 8.3 percent increase from 2015 to 2017, the Democrat-controlled House and Senate Revenue Committees have introduced over a dozen bills increasing taxes. Gov. Kate Brown has already proposed \$900 million in tax increases and also wants to use \$110 million for a new round of employee raises.

Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, offered the following statement:

"Instead of reducing government waste and reforming our insolvent pension system, the Democrats are attempting to foist on our constituents hundreds of millions in new taxes. Oregonians spoke very clearly when they voted no on Measure 97, and Senate Republicans will do everything we can to protect them from this tax tsunami. It is flat-out wrong to be punishing victims of crimes, struggling businesses, charitable donations, farmers, homeownership, and conservation efforts. Oregon taxpayers should 'duck and cover.'"

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee tax increase proposals:

- Repeal Ballot Measure 50 LC 2282
- Struggling Business Tax LC 2324
- Vaping Tax LC 2656
- Daycare Tax LC 2321

House Revenue Committee tax increase proposals:

- Seniors Medical and Dental Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Homeownership Tax LC 2378 & 2387

- Charity Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Cow Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Farmer Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Conservation Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Air Pollution Control Facility Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Forest Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Victims Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Buildings and Equipment Tax LC 2378 & 2387
- Struggling Business Tax LC 2384
- S-corp businesses Tax Hike, even if they lose money LC 2385
- C-corp businesses Tax Hike LC 2380
- AirBnb Tax LC 1049
- Steal the personal income tax kicker in violation of the Oregon Constitution and turn it into a wealth redistribution program LC 2257
- Nonprofit Property Tax Study LC 2286
- Daycare Tax LC 2369
- Tobacco Products Tax LC 2375
- Vaping Tax LC 2389
- Repeal Ballot Measure 50 LC 2402

Brown's tax increase proposals:

- \$600 million from new taxes on hospitals and insurance companies (which includes revising the Hospital Assessment structure to make it a true tax and reinstating the insurance and managed care tax that expired in 2013)
- \$183 million by eliminating the Small Business Tax Cut from the 2013 Grand Bargain
- \$39.1 million by increasing the liquor surcharge from \$0.50 to \$1 per bottle and increasing alcohol-licensing fees
- \$35.2 million by increasing cigarette tax from \$1.33 per pack to \$2.18 per pack, plus increasing taxes on cigars, moist snuff, and other tobacco products
- \$28 million by allowing sunset of tax credits for qualified research activities (\$4.1 million), residential alternative energy devices (\$15.7 million) renewable energy development (\$2.4 million), energy conservation projects (\$4.4 million), and production or collection of biomass (\$1.4 million)

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