



PRESS RELEASE

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Representative Taylor Expresses Disappointment on Failure to Pass HB 4131 *Bill to Address State Debt & Bring in Revenue Pulled From Senate Floor Yesterday*

SALEM – Yesterday, the Oregon Senate voted to send HB 4131 to the Senate Health Care Committee in lieu of passing it off of the Senate Floor. The bill was co-championed by Representative Kathleen Taylor (D-Milwaukie) and Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose).

HB 4131 was drafted following the Secretary of State’s 2015 Debt Collection Audit. The bill took specific audit recommendations—granting the Department of Revenue the use of two tools, Financial Institution Data Matching and access to New Hire Report—in order to improve Oregon’s Debt Collection efforts. Debt owed to Oregon has nearly doubled since 2008 and HB 4131 would work to reverse that trend. The Legislative Revenue office analysis indicated that the bill would bring in over \$17 million over the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 biennia, money that could be going towards our schools and funding critical services.

“I am disappointed that HB 4131 died at the last-minute in the Senate,” says Representative Taylor. “The bill had support from our credit unions, from Oregon’s executive branch through inter-agency collaboration, and importantly was set to bring in much-needed revenue to our state. By not collecting on this debt, we pass on the burden to tax payers who are playing by the rules. HB 4131 was well-vetted and directly responded to audit recommendations, granting tools that the Department of Revenue has been requesting for over five years.”

HB 4131 passed the House Floor Friday, February 26th with broad bipartisan support. Representative Taylor plans to continue work on this issue in the 2017 Legislative Session.

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