



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

OREGON'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

2024

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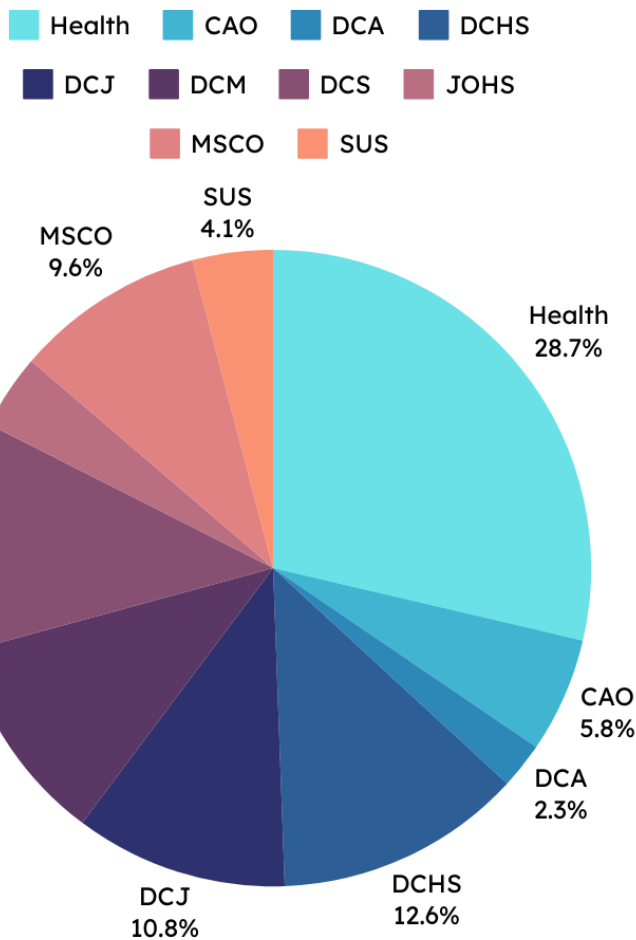
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By the Numbers



291

Measures introduced.

164

Measures passed by the House.

145

Measures passed by the Senate.

43

Number of legislative committees.

32 days

Number of days in session.

199

Number of bills tracked by the county.

INTRODUCTION

Legislative Session Recap

The 2024 Legislative Session convened on February 5, 2024. As required by the constitution and rules, Legislative Sessions in even-numbered years are limited to 35 days, and legislators are limited to two bills per member.

Legislators overcame the short length and cascading deadlines of the 2024 session with a bipartisan, business-like focus on top priorities: drug addiction treatment, housing production and affordability, and the state budget. While there were disagreements over certain issues, the overall tone of the session was collaborative and pragmatic. As a result, the caucuses agreed to suspend rules so that they could expedite bills through the legislative process and accomplish their agendas with a minimum of procedural hurdles.

The positive Economic and Revenue Forecast released in early February set the stage for the Legislature to make investments across Oregon. Multnomah County won significant investments from the Legislative Assembly during the 2024 Session. At the top of the list, the Legislature allocated \$25 million to help the County create a drop-off center for addiction treatment, with related statewide investments that will flow to the County to assist with law enforcement deflection to treatment. Additionally, the County's priorities for increased statewide funding for community corrections and community restoration services were approved in full. The Legislature also voted to create a detailed study of the appropriate funding levels for behavioral health services provided by counties.

The Legislative Assembly passed two of the county's top policy priorities related to transportation permits as well as flood safety. On the challenging side, two bills passed that will limit the county's ability to ensure contractors hired by the county are accountable to taxpayers for their work. Of the 289 measures introduced throughout the session, Government Relations staff and our department's legislative coordinators tracked 198 bills to review impacts on county operations and the community we serve.

On the last day of the session, Speaker Dan Rayfield resigned his position as leader of the chamber but will remain in office through the rest of his term as State Representative. The House of Representatives elected a new Speaker, Julie Fahey of Eugene, who will preside over the House for the duration of the 82nd Legislative Assembly. The session adjourned sine die on Thursday, March 7.

LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITY BILLS BY AREA

Housing & Homelessness

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Housing Funding Package

SB 1530 appropriates \$279.6 million GF across eight state agencies to support investments in housing stability, infrastructure development, housing production, climate impacts, and recovery housing. SB 1530 passed the second chamber (House) with 52 Ayes, 5 Nays, and 3 Excused. General Fund appropriations include:

- \$65 million for the operations, services, and administration of emergency shelters, Project Turnkey sites, and Navigation Centers.
- \$34 million for homelessness prevention services, including services provided through the Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention (ORE-DAP) and Eviction Prevention Rapid Response (EPRR) programs, and services provided by culturally responsive organizations.
- \$7 million to the Urban League of Portland for homelessness prevention services.
- \$25 million to Albina Vision Trust for the purchase and redevelopment of property for affordable housing.
- \$5 million to provide matching funds to individual development accounts.
- \$1 million to Seeding Justice for tenant education and support for specified residents.
- \$89.4 million to the Oregon Business Development Department to administer grants for water and wastewater projects that support housing production.
- \$1.25 million to the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization for the purchase and development of property for affordable housing.
- \$3 million to the Center for Intercultural Organizing (Unite Oregon) for the development of affordable housing.
- \$15 million for the Healthy Homes Repair Fund.
- \$3.5 million to provide air conditioners and air filters through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
- \$18 million for grants to various Oregon-based nonprofit organizations for housing people in recovery from substance use disorders.
- \$2 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide support for warming, or cooling emergency shelters or facilities.
- \$4 million to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) for the Residential Heat Pump Fund.

Residential Property Wholesaling

HB 4058 defines residential property wholesaling and requires individuals engaging in it to register with a system created by the Real Estate Commissioner. It also requires real estate licensees representing sellers to act under listing agreements, and those representing buyers to act under representation agreements. HB 4058 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 29 Ayes and 1 Nay.

Oregon Housing Needs Analysis

HB 4063 incorporates planning responsibilities for unincorporated areas of Metro into the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis, and it allows a city to administratively approve or terminate an eligible property tax exemption for single-unit housing. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 24 Ayes and 6 Nays.

Deferral of System Development Charges

HB 4099 directs the Oregon Housing and Community Services to purchase and collect debt from a housing developer, based on the deferred payment of system development charges for a project as agreed upon by a local government and the developer. The bill appropriates \$10 million in General Funds to administer the program. HB 4099 was referred to Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Individual Development Accounts

HB 4131 appropriates \$10 million in General Funds to the Housing and Community Services Department to make matching deposits into individual development accounts. HB 4131 was referred to Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Grants to Cities for Infrastructure Projects

HB 4134 appropriates \$21.3 million in General Funds for infrastructure grants to specified cities and requires that infrastructure projects receiving funds must support housing developments in which at least 30 percent of the units are affordable to households earning 130 percent or less of the county median income. HB 4134 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 28 Ayes and 2 Excused.

Long-Term Rent Assistance Fund

SB 1501 implements statutory changes necessary to support the 2023-25 legislatively approved budget and to clarify the application of statutes such as expanding allowed uses of funds deposited into the Long-Term Rent Assistance Fund to include supportive services to people who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. SB 1501 passed the second chamber (House) with 49 Ayes, 7 Nays, and 4 Excused.



Emergency Air Conditioners

SB 1529 authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to distribute air conditioners and air filters to eligible individuals during an emergency. The bill also modifies the Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Program to increase the maximum reimbursement landlords can receive for damage caused by tenants from no more than \$5,000 per tenancy to a maximum amount established by the Housing and Community Services Department. SB 1529 passed out of the second chamber (House) with 40 Ayes, 14 Nays, and 6 Excused.

Housing Production Package

SB 1537 establishes the Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO), which will be administered by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). The measure also establishes the Housing Accountability and Production Office Fund to operate HAPO. The Housing Project Revolving Loan Fund to provide no-interest financing of loans to sponsoring jurisdictions for eligible infrastructure costs related to the creation of middle-income housing, and the Housing Infrastructure Support Fund, administered by the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to provide grants and technical assistance to municipalities for capacity and support for infrastructure planning. SB 1537 appropriates a total of \$89.5 million in General Funds to three agencies: \$10.6 million to the DLCD; \$3 million to the OBDD; and \$75.8 million to the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). The bill passed the second chamber (House) with 50 Ayes, 6 Nays, and 4 Excused.

Model Ordinances for Cities

SB 1564 directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to create three model ordinances that provide clear and objective standards for the development of various housing types. The model ordinances are targeted towards cities with different population sizes, ranging from populations of less than 2,500 to populations of more than 25,000. DLCD is required to develop the three model ordinances by January 1, 2026. SB 1564 passed the second chamber (House) with 24 Ayes, 5 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Health

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Flavoring of Prescription Drugs

HB 4010 specifies that the addition of flavoring to a drug intended for dispensation may not be considered compounding under specified circumstances. The bill allows for a mark instead of initials to acknowledge disclosure. It also exempts Oregon State Hospital from certain staffing requirements. HB 4010 passed the House on concurrence with 41 Ayes, 14 Nays, and 5 Excused.

Siting of Residential Treatment Facilities

HB 4023 requires local governments to allow the siting of a residential treatment facility, as defined in ORS 443.400, without requiring a zone change or conditional use permit if the property is within the urban growth boundary and is owned by a public body. HB 4023 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 22 Ayes, 6 Nays, and 2 Excused, but failed to come up for a concurrence vote in the House of Representatives.

School-Based Health Centers

HB 4070 directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adjust grants awarded to school-based health centers (SBHCs) for inflation. It also directs OHA to issue grants to 10 districts for planning and operating SBHCs and to implement a grant program to increase and improve school-based mental health services. HB 4070 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Temporary Licenses for Healthcare Professionals

HB 4071 requires health professional regulatory boards to issue license applicants a temporary authorization to practice within 10 days of receiving the application in specified circumstances. It also terminates the temporary authorization after one year or on the date on which the applicant receives the license. HB 4071 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Definition of Dangerous to Self or Others

HB 4074 expands the definition of "dangerous to self or others" to include the threat of harm to self or others within 30 days. It includes the ability to consider past behavior, frequency, and immediacy. HB 4074 was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, where it remained upon adjournment.

Emergency Medical Services Modernization

HB 4081 establishes a framework to modernize Oregon's emergency medical services (EMS) system, with the following provisions taking effect January 1, 2025:

- Establishes an EMS program to administer a statewide system and improve EMS standards.
- Creates a State EMS Director position to oversee the new EMS program and serve as chairperson of the EMS Advisory Board.
- Establishes a 19-member EMS Advisory Board to develop the EMS program and provide ongoing advice and recommendations. The board is supported by four advisory committees:
 - Time-Sensitive Medical Emergencies Advisory Committee
 - Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee
 - Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Committee
 - Behavioral Health Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

HB 4081 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes and 4 Nays.

Behavioral Health Cost Study

HB 4092 requires the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study to determine the funding required for each community mental health program to provide the services and perform the functions required by law. It also requires the authority to study the statutory and regulatory framework for behavioral health systems and recommend changes to the laws to address redundancies, contradictions, and outdated language. HB 4092 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 21 Ayes, 7 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Nurse-Family Partnerships

HB 4105 appropriates \$3,155,147 from the General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority to provide the non-federal matching share for the Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting services program. HB 4105 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment. Funding for Nurse-Family Partnerships was included in HB 5204.

Interstate Compact for Nurses

HB 4136 allows employers to hire nurses who are currently licensed in good standing in another state while their application and credentials are being reviewed for their Oregon license. This provisional license would be valid for 90 days, which should be adequate time for the Board to issue the permanent license. HB 4136 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers

HB 4149 requires Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to be licensed, changes the definition of a PBM, and changes the way PBMs can audit drug stores. The bill also changes the way 340B drugs are covered by insurance. HB 4149 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 25 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Overdose Notifications

HB 4150 authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide electronic notification to a healthcare practitioner when the practitioner's patient has experienced an overdose. HB 4150 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 29 Ayes and 2 Nays.

Youth Behavioral Health Workforce

HB 4151 directs the System of Care Advisory Council to establish a subcommittee on the youth behavioral health workforce. It requires the subcommittee to submit an initial report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to behavioral health. HB 4151 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Firearm Suicide Prevention Task Force

SB 1503 creates the 17-member Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention to study specific issues related to public health best practices for reducing deaths from community safety threats and for suicide prevention. The task force is to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to health care by September 15, 2024, and September 15, 2025. SB 1503 passed the second chamber (House) with 35 Ayes, 22 Nays, and 3 Excused.

Pharmacists Testing for Respiratory Illness

SB 1506 temporarily permits pharmacists to test for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and prescribe, dispense, and administer treatment, including drug therapy for SARS-CoV-2. It also requires the Oregon Health Plan, health insurers, the Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB), and Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) to reimburse for testing, treatment, and pharmacist services. SB 1506 passed the second chamber (House) with 51 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 6 Excused.

Paid Family and Medical Leave

SB 1514 requires the Director of The Oregon Employment Department to conduct periodic assessments of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to assess its solvency. SB 1514 passed the second chamber (House) with 50 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 7 Excused.



Online Scheduling for Health Care Providers

SB 1578 directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to contract with a nonprofit to administer a management system for healthcare providers to schedule directly with qualified interpreters and process billing for services. It also allows the nonprofit to contract with a vendor for a software system. SB 1578 passed the second chamber (House) with 34 Ayes, 21 Nays, and 5 Excused.

Behavioral Health Workforce Development

SB 1592 appropriates \$6 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to expand Oregon's behavioral health workforce. SB 1592 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment. Funding for SB 1592 was included in HB 5204.

Safety for Behavioral Health Workers

SB 1594 creates a Task Force on Improving the Safety of Behavioral Health Workers. The Act specifies who must be on the task force and outlines the duties of the task force. This provision became part of HB 4002.

Human Services

■ Bill numbers in this color passed ■ Bill numbers in this color failed

Budget Reconciliation Bill

SB 5701 is the omnibus budget reconciliation bill for the 2024 session. The measure modifies state agencies' 2023-25 legislatively adopted budgets and adjusts General Fund appropriations to the Emergency Board. Major General Fund changes in the measure include, but are not limited to:

- \$86 million to the Department of Early Learning and Care for the Employment Related Day Care program caseload. A related special purpose appropriation is increased from \$8 million to \$72 million.
- \$76.2 million net increase to rebalance the Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority budgets.
- \$21.9 million General Fund for the Department of Human Services to establish 79 positions (79.00 FTE) that are not currently budgeted and were administratively established by the agency.
- \$20 million to address health and safety issues along state highways in the Portland Metro region.
- \$15 million General Fund for distribution to Multnomah County for the construction of a behavioral health drop-off center. This funding adds to a related \$10 million General Fund appropriation in HB 5204 (2024).
- \$12 million General Fund for the Department of Human Services to implement the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program.
- \$8.8 million GF (\$17.6 million total funds) for the Department of Human Services to support case management through Area Agencies on Aging.
- \$2 million for a pilot grant program designed to provide supportive services to newly arrived individuals and families in need.

SB 5701 passed the second chamber (House) with 49 Ayes, 7 Nays, and 4 Excused.

Summer Learning

HB 4082 requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a grant program to fund summer learning and provides a \$30 million expenditure limitation for grants for summer learning. It also directs ODE to conduct a study and propose recommendations for summer and after-school programs to address education disparities in preschool and K-12 students. HB 4082 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes and 4 Nays.



Immigration Legal Services

HB 4085 directs the Department of Human Services to provide grants to assist noncitizens and undocumented individuals in covering costs associated with immigration legal services or fees related to changing their immigration status or obtaining lawful permanent resident status. It includes an appropriation of \$6 million in General Funds for the grant program. HB 4085 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Services to New Arrivals in Oregon

HB 4159 directs the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) to coordinate the provision of support services to individuals who are recent arrivals to Oregon and the United States and who are not already receiving such services through the federal refugee resettlement program. The bill also establishes an advisory council to facilitate communication and make recommendations regarding the program. HB 4159 was referred to the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services, where it remained upon adjournment. Funding related to HB 4159 was included in HB 5701.

Public Guardianship

SB 1507 directs the Oregon Health Authority to address the challenges faced by hospitals in discharging patients with complex needs to appropriate settings. It also allows the Office of the Public Guardian to provide services that do not require court appointment, such as supporting decision-making or serving as a health care representative or advocate, with additional funding for guardianship and non-guardianship services. SB 1507 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment. Funding for SB 1507 was included in SB 5701.

Public Assistance for COFA Citizens

SB 1518 specifies that a Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizen residing in Oregon may not be denied public assistance, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, based on the COFA citizen's immigration status. SB 1518 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Civil Commitment for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

SB 1522 repeals statutes related to civil commitments for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, it prohibits state bodies from denying services to individuals with a mental illness based on a co-occurring intellectual disability. SB 1522 passed the Senate with 17 Ayes and 12 Nays but did not receive a majority of Ayes votes in the second chamber (House 8 Ayes, 48 Nays, and 4 Excused).



Parents as Care Providers

SB 1565 directs the Oregon Department of Human Services to pay parents to provide attendant care services for the deficit number of hours. Specifically for children with very high medical and behavioral health needs who receive fewer than the average number of hours of attendant care. SB 1565 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Expanding Food Options for SNAP Recipients

SB 1585 creates a task force to develop a program that permits SNAP recipients to have more food choices, such as being able to buy hot meals. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) will also create a plan, and the Task Force will report to the Legislative Assembly on the progress of this program by January 31, 2025. SB 1585 passed the second chamber (House) with 47 Ayes, 7 Nays, and 6 Excused.

Public Safety

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Addiction and Community Safety Response Omnibus

HB 4002 establishes a criminal justice framework for possession or delivery of controlled substances designed to encourage treatment over penalties such as jail or probation. The provisions include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing a certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC) program in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).
- Establishing a 26-member Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability to make recommendations on improving governance of behavioral health systems and strengthening evidence-based funding decisions.
- Establishing a 16-member Task Force on Improving the Safety of Behavioral Health Workers.
- Establishing the United We Heal Medicaid Payment Program in OHA to provide supplemental payments to eligible behavioral health care providers to enable access to enhanced apprenticeship and training programs and opportunities.
- Expands the definition of “deliver” or “delivery” to include the possession of a controlled substance with intent to transfer to another person.
- Requiring any conviction for delivery of a controlled substance (DCS) made within 30 ft of a public park, within 500 ft of a temporary residence shelter, or within 500 ft of a treatment facility, if the person knows or reasonably should have known they were within 500 ft of said location, to be classified as a Crime Category 7 of the sentencing guidelines grid of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).
- Directing the Chief Justice’s Criminal Justice Advisory Council to reevaluate and update the pretrial release criteria for persons arrested for delivery or manufacture of controlled substances.
- Establishing a drug enforcement misdemeanor crime of possession of a controlled substance (PCS).
- Encouraging law enforcement agencies and district attorneys to refer or divert individuals unlawfully in possession of a controlled substance constituting a drug enforcement misdemeanor to a deflection program as defined by the measure, instead of arrest or prosecution.
- Providing that the CJC shall establish a statewide system for tracking data concerning deflection program outcomes and maintaining a publicly available list of deflection programs operating within the state.
- Directing the Department of Corrections (DOC) to assume responsibility for community-based supervision for offenders on conditional discharge agreement for a drug enforcement misdemeanor.

- Requiring a court, at the request of a person charged with a drug enforcement misdemeanor constituting PCS, to defer further proceedings and place the person on probation.
- Requiring the sealing or expungement of records related to a person's conduct constituting a drug enforcement misdemeanor constituting PCS.
- Defining "deflection program" as a collaborative program between law enforcement and behavioral health systems to assist individuals with substance use disorder, another behavioral health disorder, or co-occurring disorders, in creating community-based pathways to treatment, recovery support services, housing, case management, or other services.
- Extending the authority provided in ORS 430.399 for a director of a treatment facility to hold an individual from up to 48 hours to up to 72 hours.

HB 4002 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 21 Ayes, 8 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Addiction and Community Safety Response Funding Package

HB 5204 includes appropriations and other budgetary adjustments related to the fiscal impact of HB 4002 and other associated activities addressing public safety, behavioral health, and drug addiction prevention. Allocations include:

- \$85.4 million GF to the DAS to distribute to entities with shovel-ready behavioral health capital projects addressing system capacity. Including:
 - \$10 Million to Multnomah County for a behavioral health drop-off center.
 - \$4 Million to 4th Dimension Recovery for acquisition of an adolescent substance-use residential facility.
 - \$4 Million to Cascade AIDS Project to purchase the Prism Health facility.
- \$1.15 million GF to the DAS for grant allocation to the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center for its peer-to-peer mentoring and outreach program, and to the Women's First Transition Center for detox services.
- \$16 million GF to the DOC for distribution to community corrections to mitigate personnel actions and prevent layoffs from reduced population caseload.
- \$40.51 million GF are provided for the CJC to:
 - Address funding gaps for specialty courts.
 - Expand the purpose and funding available for the Improving People's Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports, and Service (IMPACTS) grant program, including the creation of the Oregon Behavioral Health Deflection Program.
 - Establish a Jail Reentry Pilot Program.
 - Increase funding for Restorative Justice programs.
 - Expand access to medication-assisted treatment in jails.
 - Conduct a public service campaign and outreach.
- \$9.7 million to the OJD to stabilize funding for existing specialty courts and investments in new specialty courts.
- \$2.1 million GF to the Public Defense Commission for law school collaboratives on



misdemeanor cases.

- \$12.2 million for the establishment of 18 positions to provide financially eligible persons adequate legal representation in state court.
- \$2.1 million for distribution to the University of Oregon, Lewis and Clark and Willamette University Law Schools to provide training and supervision of court certified law students to undertake legal representation of misdemeanor cases.
- \$4 million GF to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for specific distributions to five Oregon universities to support behavioral health workforce education and training.
- \$2.5 million for the East Metro Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention program.
- \$2 million for the development of curriculum supplements related to the dangers of synthetic opioids.
- \$2.7 million GF for the Department of Early Learning and Care is made to support relief nurseries.
- \$2.1 million GF to the OHA to support costs associated with the implementation of HB 4002, including:
 - Development of a youth strategic plan by the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission.
 - Codification and expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic program.
 - Coordination with the Criminal Justice Commission on deflection programs and data needs.
 - Establishment of the United We Heal Medicaid Payment program.
- \$7.5 million for community restoration services.
- \$9.8 million for deflection program coordination and services for deflection programs defined in HB 4002.
- \$3.2 million to the OHA for the payment of local match funding requirements associated with the Nurse-Family Partnership program that local governments participating in the program would otherwise pay.

HB 5204 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 27 Ayes and 3 Nays.

Specialty Court Task Force

HB 4001 creates a 19-member Task Force on Specialty Courts to study issues concerning specialty courts, including identifying funding to ensure the long-term stability of specialty courts, and determining the administrative and funding balance between the Criminal Justice Commission and the Oregon Judicial Department. HB 4001 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 24 Ayes and 6 Nays.

State Medical Examiner Services

HB 4003 requires the Oregon Department of State Police (OSP) to study the causes and ways to address the shortage of medical examiners in Oregon and to provide the results of the study to the Legislative Assembly by October 1, 2025. HB 4003 passed out of the House on concurrence with 54 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 5 Excused.

Animal Cruelty

HB 4043 creates the crime of interfering with an investigation for offenses against an animal and amends elements of the crimes of animal abuse in the first degree and aggravated animal abuse in the first degree, classifying them as a crime category 7 on the sentencing guidelines grid in certain circumstances. HB 4043 passed the House on concurrence with 54 Ayes, 4 Nays, and 5 Excused.

Workforce Stabilization Act

HB 4045 modifies select Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) pension benefits including:

- Lowers prospectively the normal retirement age for police officers and firefighters under the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP).
- Recategorizing prospectively elected district attorneys from General Service to Police & Fire members in Tier One and Tier Two and OPSRP pension plans, which would provide higher benefit multipliers and a lower normal retirement age.
- Recategorizing prospectively Oregon State Police (OSP) forensic scientists and evidence technicians, at the discretion of the OSP Superintendent, in Tier One and Tier Two and OPSRP pension plans from General Service to Police & Fire members, which would provide higher benefit multipliers and a lower normal retirement age.
- Establishes a new hazardous position classification within the OPSRP pension plan with higher benefit multipliers and earlier normal retirement eligibility than OPSRP General Service.

HB 4045 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 25 Ayes and 5 Nays.

Children's Advocacy Center Funding

HB 4140 directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to include discrete amounts in its budget request for the next biennium that are necessary for funding the projected costs of state support for children's advocacy centers, the Survivor Housing Funds Grant program, its successor program, and the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Expansion of Public Intoxication Holds

HB 4114 changes current laws regarding where police may take a person who is in public while on drugs or drunk. It also expands how long a person may be held after being given an opioid reversal drug from 48 hours to 72 hours. This bill became part of HB 4002.

Jail-Based Medications

HB 4120 establishes the Oregon Jail-Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Program in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and directs the commission to administer the program in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority. HB 4120 was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, where it remained upon adjournment. The funding for Jail-Based MAT Grants was included in HB 5204.

Aggravated Animal Abuse

HB 4145 amends aggravated animal abuse in the first degree and creates two new crimes of encouraging aggravated animal abuse in the first and second degree. HB 4145 passed the House on concurrence with 56 Ayes and 4 Nays.

Sustainable Funding Model for Juvenile Education Programs (JDEP)

SB 1552 is the omnibus education policy bill for the 2024 Session, and it includes a provision that supports the Juvenile Detention Education Program (JDEP). The bill creates the Juvenile Justice Education Fund and requires the state Department of Education to set a target level of funding for JDEP across the state. The bill also permits an individual to petition a licensing board, commission, or agency to learn whether a criminal conviction will prevent them from receiving an occupational or professional license, prior to entering an education, training, or apprenticeship program. This bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 48 Ayes, 8 Nays, and 4 Excused.

Drug Use on Public Transit

SB 1553 expands the crime of interfering with public transportation to include when a person, while in or on a public transit vehicle or public transit station, knowingly consumes a controlled substance that is not lawfully possessed by the person. It provides that a conviction for interfering with public transportation established by this measure shall be classified as a designated drug-related misdemeanor. SB 1553 passed the Senate on concurrence with 23 Ayes, 6 Nays, and 1 Excused.

New Crime of Using Controlled Substances

SB 1555 creates the Class A misdemeanor crime of using a controlled substance in a public place and makes additional changes to Ballot Measure 110, including changes to treatment funding. SB 1555 was referred to the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response, where it received a public hearing. It remained in committee upon adjournment.

Early Medical Release

SB 1560 establishes the Medical Release Advisory Committee (MRAC) within the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (Board) to review and make recommendations to the full Board on up to five applications per month for early medical release. SB 1560 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Environment & Sustainability

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Battery Energy Storage System Siting

HB 4015 provides increased ability to provide siting for Battery Energy Storage Systems, which store energy from sources like wind and solar generation. The bill allows battery systems to be exempt from an additional siting process if they are being constructed in tandem with an energy production facility. Energy storage provisions like HB 4015 will help the county meet its renewable energy goals. This bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 16 Ayes, 13 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Prescribed Fire Liability Program

HB 4016 builds on the pilot program created in 2023 to deal with liability issues arising from prescribed fires as a tool for wildfire prevention. The bill creates more detailed criteria for reimbursement for claims related to prescribed fires, as well as modifying additional wildfire prevention and mitigation programs, including community monitoring of smoke-related air quality events. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 28 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 1 Excused.

Toxic Inhalants

HB 4044 directs the Department of Environmental Quality to study and report on risks related to earthquake-induced toxic inhalation, including identifying the highest-risk facilities, modeling scenarios on potential impacts, and completing a policy review of seismic requirements and mitigation programs in other jurisdictions. HB 4044 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

PFAS in Biosolids

HB 4049 appropriates \$500,000 GF to Oregon State University (OSU) to study the fate and transport of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields and to report findings to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2025. HB 4049 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment.

Removing Coal from the State Treasury Investment Portfolio

HB 4083 directs the Oregon Investment Council and Oregon State Treasurer to eliminate state investments in coal companies or funds that include coal companies. There are exceptions if the Treasurer determines that the company is transitioning away from coal. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 16 Ayes, 13 Nays, and 1 Excused.



Updating Oregon's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals

SB 1559 proposed updating the greenhouse gas emission goals that Oregon set in 2007. The bill aimed to set a new goal of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to establish a higher goal for greenhouse gas emission reductions for 2050 relative to 1990 emission levels. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment, where it remained upon adjournment.

Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund

SB 1561 implements Oregon's settlement agreement with the biochemical corporation Monsanto for the purposes of environmental remediation. The bill allocates the settlement award to the newly-created Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund to support tribal governments, state agencies, and disproportionately impacted communities in efforts to remediate environmental contamination or provide restitution for environmental impacts. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 54 Ayes, 2 Nays, and 4 Excused.

Infrastructure, Transportation & Land Use

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Contracting Responsibility Retainage Surety Bonds

HB 4006 impacts county contracts by limiting the option to require contractors to use a 'retainage' system. Currently, counties have the choice to hold 'retainage' on a project or to allow contractors to obtain a bond to help deal with any remaining issues near the completion of a project. Under HB 4006A, counties are forced to accept surety bonds at the contractor's option. This will prolong the process for the county to hold contractors accountable while burdening taxpayers with additional costs. For example, the county currently enforces project equity goals through liquidated damages paid out of retainage. This enforcement mechanism will likely not be available through surety bonds. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 30 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 0 Excused.

UGB Decisions Not Subject to Referendum

HB 4026 clarifies that municipal decisions to make changes to an urban growth boundary are administrative, not legislative, and are therefore not subject to referendum petitions. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 25 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing and Motor Vehicle Rentals

HB 4066 was requested by car-sharing company Turo. The bill would have impacted Multnomah County's ability to assess a tax on rental cars. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Business and Labor, where it remained upon adjournment.

Transportation Omnibus

HB 4109 contains multiple wide-ranging provisions updating Oregon's transportation laws. Sections of the bill include an update to photo radar use by municipalities, electric vehicle rebates, Eastern Oregon rail feasibility, and family placards for disabled parking. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 21 Ayes, 7 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Housing Production Infrastructure Financing Study

HB 4155 would have required Business Oregon to study infrastructure financing and its related impact on the creation of additional housing stock. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans, where it remained upon adjournment.



Supporting Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District Operations

SB 1517 authorizes the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District in Multnomah County to adopt two financing mechanisms that will support the district's responsibility of keeping the Columbia River floodplain area safe. The UFSWQD maintains the levee system near the Columbia River, which is in need of repair and modernization. SB 1517 allows the UFSWQD to continue the property assessments currently issued by the four legacy drainage districts, as well as a new ability to charge a 'utility fee' to the jurisdictions that benefit from the levee system, such as cities and Multnomah County. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 45 Ayes, 10 Nays, and 5 Excused.

Vehicle Taxation Equity Related to the Highway Cost Allocation Study

SB 1519 and **SB 1543** proposed to lower weight-mile taxes for heavy vehicles like semi-trucks to bring Oregon's transportation tax system into compliance with the constitution. **HB 4165** would have required the Oregon Department of Transportation to study how to balance heavy-vehicle and light-vehicle taxation rates to achieve constitutional compliance. These bills were referred to the Joint Committee on Transportation and remained in committee upon adjournment.

Allowing Counties to Seek Permit Cost Recovery for Work in the Right-of-Way

SB 1566 allows counties to charge fees for permits associated with utility work in county-owned right-of-way. Currently, counties were preempted from charging fees for permits associated with electric, gas, water, and communications utilities. Multnomah County transportation staff participated in a work group to craft this compromise bill that allows counties to seek cost recovery for right-of-way work, which will help preserve the county's limited resources for road maintenance and repair. Passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 43 Ayes, 8 Nays, and 9 Excused.

Eliminating 'Duty to Defend' Provisions in Contracts with Design Professionals

SB 1575 puts significant restrictions on public works contracting and the county's ability to ensure design professionals are accountable for their work. Multnomah County requires significant professional liability insurance policies for all design professionals on public contracts. Senate Bill 1575A eliminates the benefit of the contractually required insurance by barring any tender of defense for claims and damages arising from professional negligence until fault has been adjudicated. As a result, a local agency must bear those legal and expert fees for any such claim all the way through trial or arbitration. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 40 Ayes, 16 Nays, and 4 Excused.

County Tax & Revenue

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Clarifying Public Records Exemption for Local Government Taxes

HB 4031 clarifies that individually identifiable information related to local income taxes is exempt from public records disclosure in the same way that state income tax information is exempt. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 26 Ayes, 3 Nays, and 1 Excused.

Implementing County Foreclosure Surplus Distributions to Property Owners

HB 4056 was introduced by a group of counties to help set a standardized process for counties to distribute surplus funds from foreclosure sales to former property owners. In 2023, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Tyler v. Hennepin County* that it is unconstitutional for counties to retain the full surplus of foreclosure sales from former property owners. Due to the time limits of a short session, the bill was significantly amended to put a hold on deeding until 2025, when the Legislative Assembly expects to pass more extensive guidance on how counties should proceed. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 28 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Wildfire Funding - Landowner Assessment

HB 4133 proposed to significantly update Oregon's wildfire mitigation and prevention funding system through a series of tax and funding source changes. Portions of Multnomah County are included in two fire protection districts managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry, although much of the county in the North Cascades protection district is on federal land. This bill was in committee upon adjournment.

Revenue and Taxation Omnibus Bill

SB 1526 creates a series of technical changes in Oregon's revenue and taxation laws. Major provisions in the bill include an extension of the Industrial Site Readiness Program, semiconductor-related development in e-commerce zones, expanding property tax exemption for solar improvement on tribal land (Jefferson and Wasco Counties), and other technical changes. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 55 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 5 Excused.

Increasing the Upper Limit for Oregon's Savings Account - Rainy Day Fund

SB 1562 raises the maximum amount that Oregon can keep in its savings account, known as the "Rainy Day Fund". Currently, the limit is 7.5 percent of revenue received in the prior biennium. The bill increases that amount to 12.5 percent. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 55 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 5 Excused.



Optional Special Assessed Value for Properties Rebuilt After Wildfires

SB 1545 allows counties to provide for a special value assessment for properties rebuilt after they were destroyed by the September 2020 wildfires. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 54 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 6 Excused.

Lowering Interest Rate for Unpaid Property Taxes

HB 4141 proposed to decrease the rate of interest charged on delinquent property taxes from 1.33 percent per month to 1.33 percent per year. This would have impacted Multnomah County's assessment and taxation functions. The bill was in committee upon adjournment.

Other Relevant Bills to the County

 Bill numbers in this color passed  Bill numbers in this color failed

Statewide Campaign Finance Limits and Regulation

[HB 4024](#) sets statewide campaign finance limits for all state and local candidates effective in 2027. The bill requires entities making independent expenditures to disclose campaign-related transactions effective in 2028. There are significant impacts to Multnomah County's campaign finance limits and regulation, which voters adopted as Charter amendments in 2016. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 22 Ayes, 6 Nays, and 2 Excused.

Special Additional Pay to Employees for Business Needs

[HB 4050](#) proposed to amend Oregon's equal pay law to allow employers to provide employees with pay differentials for the purposes of recruitment and retention if the employer can prove that there is a business need for the additional compensation. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Business and Labor, where it remained upon adjournment.

Classification of Certain Employees Prohibited from Striking

[HB 4115](#) makes changes to how law enforcement and related employees are defined as supervisory for the purposes of collective bargaining. The bill sorts out different classifications for employees in law enforcement, emergency communications, correctional institutions, and the Oregon State Hospital. The bill passed the second chamber (Senate) with 30 Ayes.

Public Meeting Law

[HB 4117](#) authorizes the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) and OGEC staff to give advice on the application of the entire public meetings law, not just the executive session provisions. HB 4117 passed the second chamber (Senate) with 30 Ayes.

Cultural Organization Grant Program

[HB 4124](#) appropriates \$27.4 million GF to the Oregon Business Development Department for specific venues and to develop and implement a grant program for Oregon cultural organizations. HB 4124 was referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it remained upon adjournment. Portions of HB 4124 were funded in SB 5701.

Updating and Conforming Paid Leave Laws For Employees

SB 1515 provides consistency for employers and employees for paid leave laws and practices. The bill modifies the administration of Paid Leave Oregon as well as the Oregon Family Leave Act and brings these two programs into alignment. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 48 Ayes, 5 Nays, and 7 Excused.

Statewide Education Plans

SB 1532 directs the Department of Education to establish a statewide education plan for early childhood through post-secondary students who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers to address academic disparities, historical practices, and educational needs based on culturally responsive best practices. SB 1532 passed out of the second chamber (House) with 46 Ayes, 11 Nays, and 3 Excused.

Increasing Language Access for Voters Pamphlet

SB 1533 continues to expand the number of languages in which the voters pamphlet must be published based on local demographics. Currently, the voters pamphlet is translated into the five most common languages in each county. The bill increases the number of translated languages to 10 and also increases the minimum threshold to qualify as a common language. SB 1533 passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 45 Ayes, 9 Nays, and 6 Excused.

Election Administration Omnibus

SB 1538 makes a series of technical changes to laws that govern Oregon's election administration processes. Notably for counties, SB 1538 allows candidates and committees to use campaign funds to pay a civil penalty imposed by a county charter or city ordinance provision, with certain exceptions. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 45 Ayes, 6 Nays, and 9 Excused.

Clarifying Liability for Use of Trails and Paths

SB 1576 allows local governments to limit liability from claims from individuals using trails or pathways and specifically adds running, walking, and biking to the list of 'recreational activities'. These provisions will sunset in 2026. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 50 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 10 Excused.

Eliminating Vote by Mail as Statewide Election Standard

SB 1589 proposed to reverse Oregon's standard and instead reinstate the method of voting at a physical polling place on the date of the election. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules, where it remained upon adjournment.



Increasing Exempt Amounts from Consumer Debt Collection and Garnishment

SB 1595 increases the value of household items that are exempt from garnishment as a result of debt collection judgments. The bill also increases the threshold of earnings that are not subject to garnishment. SB 1595 passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 45 Ayes, 9 Nays, and 6 Excused.

‘Right to Repair’ Electronic Devices

SB 1596 requires a manufacturer of electronic devices to provide independent repair providers with the means to offer device repair services to a consumer on fair and reasonable terms. The bill passed the second chamber (House of Representatives) with 42 Ayes, 13 Nays, and 5 Excused.



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