

## 2023 Oregon Regular Session Overview: Rurally-Interesting Bills

The following is a summary of bills with particular emphasis on proposed legislation which may have rural impact. The session is scheduled to begin January 15th and conclude June 25th.

If you have questions or wish to express your opinion about a particular bill, please contact your state legislator. Find Your State Legislator Here: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>

If there are rural bills you think we should include in future updates, please email [jgroth@rdiinc.org](mailto:jgroth@rdiinc.org).

### Broadband and Other Infrastructure

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2766	Relating to broadband access points.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Requires Oregon Broadband Office to study barriers to, and opportunities for, investment and deployment of wireline and wireless broadband access points. Directs office to submit findings to Governor and to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to economic development no later than September 1, 2025.
HB2988	Relating to water infrastructure; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Establishes Community Benefiting Water Infrastructure Investment Program. Directs Oregon Business Development Department to award grants under program to certain entities for purpose of planning or developing community benefiting water infrastructure project. Authorizes Director of Oregon Business Development Department to appoint Advisory Committee on Community Renewable Investment. Establishes Community Benefiting Water Infrastructure Investment Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for purposes of grants. Appropriates moneys to department for deposit in fund.
SB445	Relating to traffic safety; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Establishes Rural Traffic Safety Grant Fund to provide grants to rural cities for installation and improvement of traffic control devices and crosswalks. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Transportation for deposit in Rural Traffic Safety Grant Fund.
SB455	Relating to the recharging of aquifers; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Directs Oregon Business Development Department to establish and administer grant program for aquifer recharge due diligence and forgivable loan program for aquifer recharge testing. Sunsets January 2, 2032.
SB680/ HB2188	Relating to broadband service infrastructure.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to Beacon Broadband for development of broadband service infrastructure in southern Oregon coast region.

### Economic Development

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2021	Relating to small business.	In House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business	Requires Oregon Business Development Department to study support for small businesses in this state. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to business not later than September 15, 2024.
HB2058	Relating to financial assistance for agricultural overtime compensation payments; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Directs Oregon Business Development Department to develop and administer loan program to provide financial assistance to eligible employers to mitigate costs associated with compliance with agricultural overtime compensation requirements under section 2, chapter 115, Oregon Laws 2022 (Enrolled House Bill 4002).
HB2062	Relating to industrial improvements in rural areas.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Extends sunset for property tax exemption or deferral for certain industrial improvements newly constructed or installed in rural areas.
HB2436/ 2510	Relating to county fairs; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Removes requirement that amount of net proceeds from Oregon State Lottery allocated to County Fair Account not exceed \$1.53 million annually. Requires Oregon Business Development Department to prepare and report master plan for county fairground capital construction. Specifies content and procedural requirements for report. Appropriates moneys to department out of General Fund for consultant services related to report.
HB2625	Relating to an income tax credit for sheriff's deputies in rural counties; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Establishes income tax credit for sheriff's deputies employed in rural counties. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.

HB2749/ 2758	Relating to accessory dwelling units.	In House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water	Reduces lot size of rural residential lots on which accessory dwelling units may be sited.
HB2839	Relating to tourism districts.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Directs Oregon Tourism Commission to identify, designate and monitor tourism districts in this state. Allows tourism district to apply to commission for assistance in obtaining grants from Oregon Business Development Department for community development and from Department of Transportation for community transit investments. Allows tourism district to request assistance from commission in applying for and obtaining temporary waivers of land use and building code requirements and regulations of public entities. Authorizes commission to identify and designate tourism and recreation activity that is live performance as priority tourism and recreation activity not subject to crime of unlawful recording of live performance.
HB2908	Relating to an economic development grant program for small business development centers; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for purpose of awarding grants to small business development centers for economic development projects.
HB2910	Relating to the outdoor recreation economy; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for distribution for purposes related to outdoor recreation economy. Allocates moneys to department for purpose of awarding matching grants to membership organizations and business accelerators in outdoor gear and apparel industry.
SB135/ HB2061	Relating to rural enterprise zone property tax exemption; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures	Extends sunset of property tax exemption for facility of business firm in rural enterprise zone.
SB139/ HB2063	Relating to a sunset for the rural renewable energy development zone exemption.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures	Creates sunset for rural renewable energy development zone exemption.
SB26/138	Relating to industrial improvements in rural areas.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures	Extends sunset for property tax exemption or deferral for certain industrial improvements newly constructed or installed in rural areas.
SB34	Relating to economic development; declaring an emergency.	In Senate Committee on Labor & Business	Authorizes Oregon Business Development Department to survey state loan and grant programs for economic development.
SB533	Relating to tax incentives for financial institution lending in rural areas; prescribing an effective date.	In Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue	Creates Oregon tax subtraction for interest received by financial institutions from loans made for purchase or improvement of agricultural real estate, rural residences and coastal fishing boats. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030. Exempts from commercial activity subject to corporate activity tax interest received by financial institutions from loans made for purchase or improvement of agricultural real estate, rural residences and coastal fishing boats. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.
SB87	Relating to small-scale agriculture; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Instructs Oregon State University Extension Service to expand Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems through certain hiring. Directs Oregon Business Development Department to conduct market analysis of Oregon small-scale organic market.

### Education, Health & Child Care

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2177	Relating to a tax credit for rural teachers; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Creates income tax credit for teachers in rural schools. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.
HB2189	Relating to career and technical education teachers.	In House Committee on Education	Directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to ensure nontraditional pathways to licensure are available for prospective career and technical education teachers and to provide accommodations or otherwise reduce licensure requirements for licensed career and technical education teachers, or prospective and technical education teachers, who live in rural areas.
HB2241	Relating to childcare facilities.	In House Committee on Early Childhood & Human Services	Requires Department of Land Conservation and Development and Department of Early Learning and Care to study child care facilities in rural areas. Directs departments to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to child care no later than September 15, 2024.

HB2343	Relating to mental health treatment.	In House Committee on Judiciary	Requires Oregon Health Authority to study availability of mental health treatment in rural areas of Oregon. Directs authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to judiciary not later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.
HB2552/ HB2723	Relating to tax credits for rural medical providers; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Increases amount of income tax credit allowed to rural medical providers. Removes eligibility limitation based on adjusted gross income of medical provider. Modifies conditions of eligibility for tax credit allowed to rural medical care provider. Removes restrictions on types of hospitals and tiered amounts of allowable credit based on distance from certain municipalities. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
HB2602/ 2744	Relating to tax credits for rural nursing staff; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Adds nursing assistant or nurse to types of providers who are eligible for income tax credit allowed to rural medical providers. Provides for refundability of credit allowed to nursing assistant or nurse. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
HB2623	Relating to a tax credit for rural child care workers; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Creates income tax credit for child care workers employed in rural areas. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.
HB2626	Relating to rural medical provider tax credits; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Adds licensed mental health professionals and certified medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians to types of providers eligible for tax credit allowed to rural medical care provider. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.
HB2725	Relating to pharmacy benefit managers; declaring an emergency.	In House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care	Prohibits pharmacy benefit manager from imposing fees on rural pharmacies after point of sale.
SB191	Relating to medical assistance.	Referred to Senate Committee on Health Care	Requires Oregon Health Authority to study fee-for-service medical assistance recipients' access to health care providers in rural areas of this state. Directs authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to health not later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.
SB332/ 390/ HB2235/ HB2312	Relating to behavioral/mental health.	In Senate Committee on Judiciary/House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care	Requires Oregon Health Authority to study access to behavioral/mental health treatment in rural and medically underserved areas of this state. Directs authority to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to health not later than September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.
SB487	Relating to oral health care coordination.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish grant program to provide financial support to certified dental sealant programs that promote and engage in oral health care coordination activities. Directs Office of Rural Health to establish grant program to provide scholarship and tuition assistance grants to individuals enrolled in community dental health coordinator programs and to provide matching grants to qualified employers that employ community dental health coordinators.
SB493	Relating to tax credits for rural nurse educators; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Senate Committee on Education	Adds registered nurse who is nursing faculty member to types of providers who are eligible for income tax credit allowed to rural medical providers. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.
SB677	Relating to career and technical education teachers.	In Senate Committee on Education	Directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to ensure nontraditional pathways to licensure are available for prospective career and technical education teachers and to provide accommodations or otherwise reduce licensure requirements for licensed career and technical education teachers, or prospective and technical education teachers, who live in rural areas.

### Housing and Homelessness

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2118	Relating to reimbursement for certain property tax expenditures; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to House Committee on Revenue	Directs Department of Revenue to develop and implement program to award grants to local taxing jurisdictions to reimburse them for property tax expenditures incurred to encourage development and provision of affordable housing.
HB2211	Relating to accessory dwelling units.	In House Committee on Housing & Homelessness	Redefines "historic home" to include dwellings built before 1974 for purpose of serving as accessory dwelling unit to home newly constructed on rural residential lands.

HB2404	Relating to laws regulating camping by persons experiencing homelessness; declaring an emergency.	Referred to House Committee on Judiciary	Repeals statute authorizing civil suits challenging reasonableness of local laws regulating camping by persons experiencing homelessness.
HB2454	Relating to appropriations for programs for youth experiencing homelessness; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Housing and Community Services Department to provide services and assistance to school-aged children experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Human Services for certain grant programs for programs providing services to youth experiencing homelessness.
HB2456	Relating to youth experiencing homelessness; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Modifies emergency housing assistance program and state homeless assistance program to provide services and assistance to school-aged children experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Changes "unaccompanied homeless youth" to "youth experiencing homelessness" for purposes of certain programs. Modifies eligibility requirements for applicants for grants from homeless youth services enhancement program and host home project program. Makes programs permanent.
HB2712	Relating to shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness.	In House Committee on Housing & Homelessness	Prohibits transitional housing accommodations near schools. Prohibits use of public moneys for constructing or operating transitional housing accommodations or emergency shelters near schools.
HB2889	Relating to housing development.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Establishes Oregon Housing Needs Analysis within Housing and Community Services Department. Establishes timeline by which department must adopt rules and implement analysis components. Amends land use requirements for local governments related to urbanization, including requiring Metro to adopt housing coordination strategy and allowing cities outside of Metro to adopt rural reserves. Requires Land Conservation and Development Commission to adopt or amend implementing rules by January 1, 2026.
HB2939	Relating to homeless camping sites; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Reduces notice period before removal of homeless individuals from established camping site to 24 hours. Eliminates certain requirements related to storage of personal property removed from camping site. Eliminates preemption of section by local law.
HB2981	Relating to housing; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Requires Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants and loans for housing. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department to fund grants and loans. Sunsets January 2, 2026.
HB3042	Relating to preservation of publicly supported housing; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Limits terminations and rent increases for three years after tenants' housing is withdrawn from publicly supported housing. Requires owners or landlords to provide notice to new tenants and applicants during notice period before withdrawal from publicly supported housing. Allows Housing and Community Services Department to record extension of affordability restrictions for publicly supported housing if property owner misses certain deadlines. Allows department to record right of first refusal if no qualified purchaser makes an offer. Makes other amendments to publicly supported housing preservation program.
SB434	Relating to evictions; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Creates Eviction Mediation Program within Housing and Community Services Department. Requires parties to eviction to participate in program. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for program. Amends eviction mediation and settlement procedures.
SB603	Relating to income supports for low-income individuals; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Establishes People's Housing Assistance Fund Demonstration Program, administered by Department of Human Services, to provide 12 monthly payments of \$1,000 to individuals who are experiencing homelessness, are at risk of homelessness, are severely rent burdened or earn at or below 60 percent of area median income. Sunsets January 2, 2026. Requires Portland State University Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative to study long-term cash assistance programs and to report findings to interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2024. Requires department to submit legislative concept for long-term cash assistance program to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 1, 2024, for introduction in 2025 regular session of Legislative Assembly.

SB658	Relating to homeless youth; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Establishes pilot program to provide funding to school districts for purposes of increasing access to schools by homeless students and improving academic achievement of homeless students. Directs Department of Education to award grants to school districts participating in pilot program from Statewide Education Initiatives Account. Sunsets pilot program July 1, 2026. Directs Department of Education to submit report on homeless students, including pilot program, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to education.
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## Wildfire

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2248	Relating to the impacts of wildfire on water quality.	In House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water	Requires Water Resources Department and Department of Environmental Quality to study impacts of wildfire on water quality of streams and tributaries. Directs departments to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024.
HB2491	Relating to voluntarily fighting wildfires.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Provides that person that voluntarily fights wildfire on private forestland is not civilly liable for injury to person or property resulting from good faith firefighting efforts.
HB2522	Relating to plans for responding to fire; prescribing an effective date.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Requires governing body of county that contains at-risk land, as defined, to develop, or solicit proposals for development of, fire response plan or wildfire response plan.
HB2595	Relating to fire protection services; declaring an emergency.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Provides that fire chief, or representative of fire chief, of county may extinguish uncontrolled fire found to be burning in unprotected area. Provides that governing body of county may bill owner of property for cost of extinguishing fire. Provides that, to prevent or control fire occurring within zone 2 in county, county court or board of county commissioners may arrange for optional subscription service. Establishes that tax amount shall be on assessed value of taxable property. Allows board of county commissioners to adopt fire prevention code for areas within county that are outside boundaries of rural fire protection districts.
HB2596	Relating to the prevention of wildfire; prescribing an effective date.	In House Committee on Revenue	Creates subtraction from federal taxable income for amounts received as grants related to preventing wildfire. Applies to amounts received in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2030.
HB2940	Relating to forestland.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Requires state agency or political subdivision of State of Oregon that possesses or controls real property within wildland-urban interface, or adjacent to privately owned real property within wildland-urban interface, to take certain actions to prevent wildfire.
HB2946	Relating to recovery after wildfire.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Requires State Forestry Department to study recovery after wildfire. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to forestry no later than September 15, 2024.
HB2953	Relating to wildfire suppression.	Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Allows State Forester to order use of wildfire suppression personnel, equipment and services on federal lands within state borders. Creates exceptions.
SB247/ HB2587	Relating to wildfire; declaring an emergency.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Undoes provisions adopted in Senate Bill 762 (2021). Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.
SB367/ HB2362	Relating to prisons.	In Senate Committee on Judiciary	Directs Department of Corrections to study issues relating to prison evacuations due to wildfire, and to provide results of study to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025.
SB502	Relating to establishing a permanent trust fund for wildfire programs.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Requires State Forestry Department to study establishment of permanent trust fund for wildfire programs. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.
SB505	Relating to local government discretion concerning the regulation of wildfire risk.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Requires State Forestry Department to study local government discretion concerning regulation of wildfire risk. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.

SB509	Relating to community-based programs for reducing wildfire risk.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Requires State Forestry Department to study community-based programs for reducing wildfire risk. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.
SB644	Relating to accessory dwelling units on lands zoned for rural residential use; declaring an emergency.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Removes certain requirements relating to wildfire risk maps for development of accessory dwelling units on lands zoned for rural residential use. Declares emergency, effective on passage.
SB653	Relating to funding for forest thinning; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Appropriates \$50 million to State Forestry Department to fund increased forest thinning operations in specified wildfire-prone counties. Directs department to allocate \$5 million to fund forest thinning operations on public lands located in each wildfire-prone county. Requires department to confer with county governing body of each county to determine which specific forest thinning operations to fund.
SB654	Relating to a statewide map of wildfire risk.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Removes requirement that State Forestry Department oversee development of statewide map of wildfire risk.
SB80	Relating to wildfire.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Requires State Forestry Department to study wildfire. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.
SB81	Relating to incentivizing landowners to reduce wildfire risk.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Requires State Forestry Department to study incentivizing landowners to reduce wildfire risk. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2024.
SB82/ HB2488	Relating to homeowner insurance for wildfire risk.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources/ Speaker's Desk - Awaiting Referral	Prohibits insurance company from using statewide map of wildfire risk as basis for canceling policy or increasing premium. Prohibits insurance company from considering map of wildfire risk when determining insurance rate. Directs State Board of Forestry to adopt new definition of term "wildland-urban interface." Provides that map of wildfire risk must display wildfire risk classes only for properties within wildland-urban interface. Provides that State Forestry Department shall develop map of wildfire risk only after Department of Land Conservation and Development and Department of Consumer and Business Services have taken certain actions.
SB83	Relating to local government authority on wildfire policy.	In Senate Committee on Natural Resources	Provides that local government that adopted and enforces wildfire hazard mitigation building code standards is not subject to any subsequent update to section R327 of Oregon Residential Specialty Code.