

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 from January 15th to 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.

Note: In order for a bill to be heard in committee by second chamber deadline (May 19), it has to be posted on an agenda for work session by May 5. This does not apply to Rules, Revenue, or Joint Committees.

Broadband and Other Infrastructure

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2988	Relating to water infrastructure; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	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.
HB3163A	Relating to a water planning fund; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways and Means.	Establishes Place-Based Water Planning Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Water Resources Department for purposes related to water planning. Directs Water Resources Director to use moneys in fund for certain purposes related to place-based integrated water resources plans and associated activities.
HB3201A	Relating to broadband; declaring an emergency.	Passed in the House; referred to Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs.	Requires Oregon Business Development Department to provide financial assistance to support broadband access, affordability and adoption. Permits department to establish one or more programs to provide financial assistance. Requires that department, when evaluating proposed projects under program to support broadband service infrastructure, give preference to proposed projects that serve unserved areas or underserved areas. Requires department to establish by rule, for each program established, certain criteria, requirements and processes. Makes Broadband Fund permanent. Expands permitted uses of moneys in Broadband Fund. Removes requirements for Oregon Business Development Department to establish by rule certain criteria, requirements and processes for temporary program for providing grants or loans to support projects for planning and development of broadband service infrastructure and digital literacy, inclusion and adoption. Removes requirements for department to give certain preference in making grant or loan award decisions. Requires Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to include in biennial report evaluation of continuing need for temporary program for providing grants or loans to support projects for planning and development of broadband service infrastructure and digital literacy, inclusion and adoption.
SB445	Relating to traffic safety; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means; public hearing held 3/2.	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.
SB455A	Relating to the recharging of aquifers; declaring an emergency.	Work Session held 3/1; recommended "do pass with amendments".	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.

SB1017	Relating to grants for infrastructure projects of rural cities.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Directs Oregon Business Development Department to develop and administer matching grant program to assist rural cities in financing infrastructure projects for other than transportation-related infrastructure, including facilities for water service, sewer service, water and sewer treatment or waste management and other infrastructure necessary for maintenance of community health, hygiene, sanitation and livability.
HB3207A	Relating to wells that supply ground water for domestic purposes.	Work session held 4/4; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Amends reporting requirements for real estate transaction sampling of domestic wells to require labs conducting tests to submit results to Department of Environmental Quality. Requires department to make results of tests available to public and provide results of tests to Oregon Health Authority. Authorizes authority to analyze results of tests and conduct ground water contaminant education and outreach. Becomes operative July 1, 2024.
HB3368	Relating to water; declaring an emergency.	In House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, work session scheduled on 4/3.	Directs Water Resources Department to produce state of water resources report and basin water assessments. Directs Legislative Policy and Research Office to report on water policy and management. Directs Water Resources Commission to arrange for independent audit. Directs department to temporarily pause consideration of certain applications and requests. Directs department to develop and maintain water allocation and accounting tool. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for purposes related to water resources report, basin water assessments, basin programs and water allocation and accounting tool. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to State Department of Fish and Wildlife for purposes related to water resources report and basin water assessments. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Environmental Quality for purposes related to water resources report and basin water assessments. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to State Department of Agriculture for purposes related to water resources report and basin water assessments. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon State University for purposes related to water resources report and basin water assessments. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon State University, for use by university's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center, for purposes related to water resources report and basin water assessments. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Economic Development & Energy

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2058A	Relating to financial assistance for agricultural overtime compensation payments; declaring an emergency.	Signed by Governor on 3/27.	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.	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.
HB2170A	Relating to establishing a renewable hydrogen hub.	Work session held 4/10; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Requires State Department of Energy to study feasibility of establishing renewable hydrogen hub at Oregon International Port of Coos Bay. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy and economic development no later than September 15, 2024.
HB2261	Relating to lottery revenues; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/21; recommended "do pass". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Provides that fixed percentage of certain forecasted video lottery revenues be transferred to counties for economic development. Provides that disbursements to counties from video lottery revenues be adjusted to compensate for differences between biennium's forecasted revenues and actual revenues.

SB451/ HB2436/ 2510A	Relating to county fairs; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 3/15; recommended "do pass" (451), work session held 3/14 - recommended "do pass with amendments" (2510A). 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.
HB2605A	Relating to local journalism.	Work session held 3/30; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Creates tax credit for contributions to publisher of local journalistic publication. Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to issue one-time] grants for purposes related to supporting Oregonians' local news and information needs] to specified recipients. Directs recipients to convene work group to carry out specified duties related to local journalism.
HB2625	Relating to an income tax credit for sheriff's deputies in rural counties; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures.	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.
HB2839	Relating to tourism districts.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Public Hearing held 2/7.	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.
HB2907	Relating to meat processing; declaring an emergency.	In Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 1/31 - recommended "do pass".	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to State Department of Agriculture for purpose of funding grant program related to establishments that process and sell meat products. Extends sunset of grant program.
HB2908A	Relating to an economic development grant program for small business development centers; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/7 - recommended "do pass with amendments".	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for purpose of awarding grants to small business development centers for economic development projects.
HB2909	Relating to an appropriation for economic development; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/7 - recommended "do pass".	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to Oregon Coast Visitors Association to be expended on various projects.
HB2910A	Relating to the outdoor recreation economy; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/7 - recommended "do pass with amendments".	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.
HB3069	Relating to offshore wind; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Establishes Task Force on Offshore Wind. Directs task force to study how state may support development of offshore wind energy generation and transmission. Directs task force to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to energy and economic development no later than September 15, 2023. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to State Department of Energy for purpose of carrying out duties of task force.
HB3349A	Relating to infrastructure; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 4/4; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Establishes regional solutions infrastructure director within Regional Solutions Program. Establishes Infrastructure Council. Describes duties of council. Directs council to submit report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2024. Establishes Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee. Establishes Community Infrastructure Assistance Program within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects. Establishes Community Infrastructure Fund. An amendment to this bill will include resources for Economic Development Districts for capacity building work.

HB3579A	Relating to energy technology; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services to adopt rules to govern procurements of clean energy technology. This bill sets up structures necessary to qualify for federal funds related to clean energy technology. For more information, please see OLIS.
SB135/ HB2061	Relating to rural enterprise zone property tax exemption; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures, work session held 2/28 (135).	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, Work Session held 1/26 (both).	Extends sunset for property tax exemption or deferral for certain industrial improvements newly constructed or installed in rural areas.
SB533	Relating to tax incentives for financial institution lending in rural areas; prescribing an effective date.	In Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue, Public Hearing held 1/25.	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.
SB70	Relating to residential land use in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.	Work session held 4/3; referred to Senate Committee on Rules.	Amends definition of high-value farmlands for residential rezoning of lands within Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region.
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.
SB88	Relating to biological carbon sequestration; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	Establishes state policy to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands. Requires certain agencies to monitor progress advancing state net carbon sequestration and storage policy and report findings to Oregon Global Warming Commission. Directs commission to appoint natural and working lands advisory committee. Directs certain agencies to develop natural and working lands net carbon sequestration and storage inventory. Directs certain agencies to prepare net carbon sequestration and storage baseline and activity-based metrics and community impact metrics for net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands. Directs commission to accept or modify metrics and submit report, providing adopted metrics and recommendations for legislation, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment no later than September 15, 2024. Directs Institute for Natural Resources, in coordination with commission, to study workforce and economic development potential of strategies to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands and provide results to committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment no later than April 15, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.
SB606A	Relating to compensation for nonprofit organizations that provide services on behalf of the state; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Sets minimum rate at which specified state agencies may compensate nonprofit organizations for indirect costs related to providing services. Establishes Task Force on Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting. Specifies membership of task force. Requires task force to examine how state's granting and public procurement practices limit wages of employees of nonprofit organizations and make recommendations to Oregon Department of Administrative Services concerning changes to state procurement practices that will support living wages for employees of nonprofit organizations, uniform application procedures for grant moneys, standard contracting language that permits flexibility in contract terms and conditions and multiyear contract terms, sufficient reporting requirements that are commensurate with funding levels and that allow for adequate lead time for changes to reporting required within term of contract, payment models that prioritize full cost recovery and mechanism for ongoing review and evaluation of grantmaking and procurement processes.

SB5524	Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Business Development Department	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, informational hearing held 3/27.	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Business Development Department for certain biennial expenses. This bill includes funding for Business Oregon's Rural Opportunity Initiative, Economic Equity Investment Program, Technical Assistance for Underrepresented Businesses, and \$100M to support child care businesses.
SB530A	Relating to natural climate solutions; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Establishes state policy regarding natural climate solutions. Establishes Natural and Working Lands Fund and provides for transfer of moneys from fund to certain state agencies. Prescribes uses of moneys from fund and requires Oregon Global Warming Commission to report to legislature on uses of moneys from fund. Directs State Department of Energy and commission to prepare baseline, activity-based metrics and community impact metrics for net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands and establish carbon sequestration and storage goals. Directs State Department of Energy, in coordination with commission, to study workforce training programs needed to support adoption of natural climate solutions and provide results to committees of Legislative Assembly related to environment no later than September 15, 2024. Authorizes commission to appoint natural and working lands advisory committee.

Education, Health & Child Care

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2177	Relating to a tax credit for rural teachers; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures	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.
HB2513A	Relating to drugs.	Passed in House on 4/13; on Senate President's Desk.	Requires Oregon Health Authority to study implementation of Ballot Measure 110 (2021). Requires local planning committees for alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services to coordinate with local Behavioral Health Resource Networks. Establishes policy of state to encourage treatment and recovery for people struggling with substance use. Removes four percent cap on amounts from Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund that Oregon Health Authority may use for administrative expenses to administer provisions of Ballot Measure 110 (2020). Modifies appointment of members of Oversight and Accountability Council and staggers terms of members of council. Increases responsibility of authority in processing applications for grants made by council. Modifies requirements for networks to receive grants. Modifies requirements for Secretary of State audit of uses by grantees of moneys from fund. Requires community mental health programs to provide guidance and assistance to networks for joint development of programs and activities to increase access to treatment. Allows authority, with approval of council after July 1, 2025, to implement education campaign to inform public about networks, statewide hotline and other information authority believes will benefit public in accessing behavioral health services.
HB2552/ HB2723A	Relating to tax credits for rural medical providers; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/28; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures. (2723A)	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.
HB2602A HB2744/ HB3128	Relating to tax credits for rural nursing staff; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/27; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures (2602A)	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.	Work session held 3/27; recommended "do pass". Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures.	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.

HB2626A	Relating to rural medical provider tax credits; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/27; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures.	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.	Work session held 3/27; referred to the House Committee on Rules.	Prohibits pharmacy benefit manager from imposing fees on rural pharmacies after point of sale.
HB2727A	Relating to work group to examine expansion of child care facilities; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/20; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Directs Department of Land and Conservation and Development to convene work group to examine strategies for expanding early learning and care facilities in this state.
HB3005	Relating to financial assistance for early child care infrastructure activities; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Directs Housing and Community Services Department to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants to pay for allowable costs related to early child care infrastructure activities.
HB2235A	Relating to behavioral/mental health.	Passed in House; on Senate Desk Awaiting First Reading.	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.
SB487A	Relating to oral health care coordination.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/1 - recommended "do pass with amendments".	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 Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures, Work Session held 1/24.	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.

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.
HB2001/5019	Relating to housing; and declaring an emergency.	Signed by Governor 3/29.	These two bills represent the \$200M housing package to address services to the unhoused, changes to landlord/tenant laws, and new local housing production requirements to address the housing shortage in the state. Includes \$25M for Rural Continuum of Care & \$5M for ag worker housing. See OLIS for full text of the bills.
HB2454	Relating to appropriations for programs for youth experiencing homelessness; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Work Session held 1/23, Public Hearing held 1/31.	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.
HB2889A	Relating to housing development.	Work session held 4/4; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	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.

HB2981A	Relating to housing; prescribing an effective date.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/16 - recommended "do pass with amendments".	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.
HB2984A	Relating to housing.	Passed by House; referred to Senate Committee on Housing and Development; public hearing held 4/12.	Allows conversion of building from commercial use to workforce housing within urban growth boundary. Prohibits, for such conversions, local governments from enforcing parking minimums and suspends collection of system development charges.
HB3042	Relating to preservation of publicly supported housing; declaring an emergency.	Passed by House; referred to Senate Committee on Housing and Development; public hearing scheduled 4/17.	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.
HB3138	Relating to housing.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 2/21 - recommended "do pass".	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Department of Administrative Services to provide grant to Regional Rural Revitalization Strategies Consortium to plan for and develop housing.
HB3174A	Relating to housing; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/23; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services to provide grants to local governments for regional housing coordinators. Requires department to provide grants to Association of Oregon Counties and League of Oregon Cities for specific purposes relating to planning for housing. Requires department to analyze local governments' costs in planning for housing. Appropriates moneys to department to award grants and conduct analysis. The -2 amendment for this bill includes \$5M for Economic Development Districts and others for building capacity.
HB3251	Relating to agricultural tourism in rural communities.	Work session held 3/30; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Requires Oregon Tourism Commission to establish and administer grant program to promote, develop and sustain opportunities for agricultural tourism in rural communities in this state. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Business Development Department for distribution to commission for 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, public hearing held 2/27.	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.
SB658A	Relating to homeless youth; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 4/4; recommended "do pass with amendments". 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.

SB847A	Relating to property; declaring an emergency.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Freezes tax assessed value for certain new residential construction for five property tax years. Applies to tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2023. Allows residential uses on lands zoned for commercial uses within urban growth boundaries. Limits Land Use Board of Appeals' review of approved middle income developments and allows board to accept additional evidence upon which to review such approvals. Sunsets January 2, 2028. Makes permanent requirements that local governments allow siting of certain emergency shelters, conditioned upon latest estimates of percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness. Awards attorney fees for successful appeal of local government's denial of emergency shelter application. Expands definition of "residential homes" and "residential facilities" that local governments must approve under same standards as other residential uses. Allows attorney fees for certain applicants whose approval is appealed. Exempts certain affordable housing from Oregon Planned Community Act. Restricts local governments' ability to regulate condominium form of ownership. Requires cities or counties to accept funding letters to affordable housing developers as sufficient assurances needed to approve subdivision plat. Exempts certain affordable housing projects from requirement to pay prevailing rate of wage. Amends definitions of "middle housing" and "needed housing" to include single room occupancies. Requires all cities to allow duplexes on certain lands zoned to allow single-family dwellings. Updates deadlines for compliance by affected cities. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Land Conservation and Development to provide grants to affected cities. Adds Metro and special districts to surplus real property reporting requirements.
--------	---	--	--

Wildfire & Other Natural Disasters

Bill	Title	Status	Summary
HB2522A	Relating to plans for responding to fire; prescribing an effective date.	Passed House 4/12; On Senate President's Desk.	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.
HB2596	Relating to the prevention of wildfire; prescribing an effective date.	In House Committee on Revenue, public hearing held 3/22.	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.
HB2898	Relating to use of recreational vehicles while abating natural disaster damages.	Passed House on 3/7; referred to Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs.	Extends time during which recreational vehicle may be sited on lot with single-family dwelling that was damaged by natural disaster. Extends allowance until December 30, 2030, for dwellings destroyed in 2020 wildfires.
HB2940	Relating to forestland.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means	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.
HB3124	Relating to drought.	Work session held 4/3; referred to House Committee on Rules.	Requires Water Resources Department to study drought. Directs department to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024. This bill includes a request for \$250M for place-based planning and other funding programs related to drought relief and resiliency.
HB3185	Relating to flood mitigation; prescribing an effective date.	Work session held 3/7, referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	Appropriates moneys to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for distribution to Harney County for flood mitigation.
HB3215A	Relating to residential units destroyed by disasters; declaring an emergency.	Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means, work session held 3/21 - recommended "do pass with amendments".	Authorizes Housing and Community Services Department to support replacement, reconstruction or rehabilitation of residential units damaged or destroyed by disaster and to support recovery of residents of such housing. Establishes Disaster Housing Recovery Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for specified purposes. Confirms abolition of Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Account.
SB502A	Relating to establishing a permanent trust fund for wildfire programs.	Work session held 3/27; referred to Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue.	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.

SB509A	Relating to community-based programs for reducing wildfire risk.	Work session held 3/8; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	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.
SB644A	Relating to accessory dwelling units on lands zoned for rural residential use; declaring an emergency.	Senate passed 3/28; referred to House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment. Public hearing scheduled 4/17; work session scheduled 4/19.	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.
SB80A	Relating to wildfire.	Work session held 4/3; recommended "do pass with amendments". Referred to Joint Committee on Ways & Means.	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.
SB82A	Relating to homeowner insurance for wildfire risk.	Passed Senate on 3/21; referred to House Committee on Climate, Energy, & Environment. Work session scheduled 4/17.	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.
SB864	Relating to voluntarily fighting fire.	Passed by Senate on 4/4; referred to House Committee on Judiciary. Work session scheduled 4/18.	Provides that person who voluntarily fights wildfire on private forestland is not civilly liable for injury to person or property resulting from good faith performance of firefighting efforts.