



2017 Oregon Legislation

Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391)

This bill secures and broadens many of the essential provisions of the Affordable Care Act, protecting the right to choose, extending postpartum coverage to mothers categorically excluded from Medicaid, and creating stronger protections for vulnerable Oregonians. This bill includes five major provisions:

- Secures in statute an affirmative clause protecting Oregonians’ right to choose.
 - Requires insurance companies to cover 22 essential health benefits currently included with no-cost sharing in the ACA. Adds abortion and vasectomies to this list.
 - Extends the full suite of reproductive services and postpartum care to women that are categorically excluded from the Oregon Health Plan.
 - Codifies in statute a nondiscrimination clause to protect Oregonians from discrimination on the basis of gender identity.
 - Grandfathers in “health benefit plans that exclude coverage for abortion in all of its individual, small employer and large employer group plans during the 2017 plan year” – Providence health plan is the only eligible plan for this exemption.
-

Combatting Racial Profiling and Harsh Drug Sentencing (HB 2355)

This bill requires all law enforcement to receive training in implicit bias as well as cognitive and practical skills to reduce the risk of profiling, both in the academy and via continuing in-service trainings extending through an officer’s entire law enforcement career.

It creates statewide data collection system that would provide current data about who is being stopped, who is being searched, who is being arrested, and who is simply being let off with a warning. Every time a stop is made, law enforcement will be required to record information including: the date, time, and location of the stop; the perceived race, gender, and ethnicity of the person stopped; the circumstances of the stop, including the alleged citation; and the disposition of the stop.

It also reduces possession charges for Schedule I and Schedule II controlled substances from a Felony to a Class A Misdemeanor in most circumstances. A felony could apply if someone were convicted of two or more “user quantity” possessions or if they have already been convicted of a felony offense. “Residue” possession charges would only be Class A Misdemeanors.

Cover All Kids (SB 558)

This bill—the product of years of work by advocates and legislators from both parties in the House and the Senate—expands eligibility for the Health Care for All Children program to include all children residing in Oregon below 300% of the federal poverty level.

The goal of the legislation is to expand coverage to the thousands of children who remain uninsured even after implementation of the Affordable Care Act: 3.6% of children ages 0-6 and 3.7% of children ages 6-17.



Privacy Protections for Immigrants and All Oregonians (HB 3464)

This legislation serves to strengthen—in line with state and federal laws—Oregon’s protections by changing the ways that public bodies are authorized to collect and share data with the federal government. It also requires the Attorney General to provide guidance to all public bodies as to how to interact with immigration enforcement activities, and encourages all public bodies to implement the guidance and or update their confidentiality policies. It comes in response to recent Immigrations and Customs Enforcement raids throughout the state.

Paid Family Leave (HB 3087)

The Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act was introduced in the 2017 session, heard in committee, and is the subject of an interim workgroup convening legislators, agencies, and stakeholders. In its current form, this legislation will have employees and employers each contribute up to 0.5% (half of one percent) of an employee’s wages through a regular payroll deduction, collected by the Department of Revenue.

When an employee has a qualifying reason for leave (after at least 90 days of employment) they would receive partial wage replacement for their time away from work directly from the state insurance fund. Employees are eligible for a maximum of 12 weeks per year due to serious illness for themselves or family member or bonding with their newborn. Parents of a new child are eligible for an additional 6 weeks, totaling 18 weeks.

Oregonians earning less than the state’s Average Weekly Wage (AWW) - \$922.04/week in 2015 - would earn 90% of their wages while out on paid family and medical leave. Those who earn above this amount would receive 90% of AWW plus 50% of their remaining earnings up to a set cap.

This program would be managed by Oregon’s Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS). Like the workers comp system, DCBS will be able to adjust the rate of payment out of the fund to be sure it remains solvent and that the money is given out to working Oregonians.

Tenant Protections (HB 2004)

The House of Representatives passed this legislation, sending it to the Senate where it was amended but unable to get through the chamber. As passed, this bill establishes a just cause eviction standard that allows for no-cause termination during the first six months of occupancy. After six months, a landlord may terminate a month-to-month tenancy only for cause, which includes all current available tenant fault-based causes. It also allows for landlords to evict for a number of business or personal reasons.

If a landlord decides to issue evictions for business or personal reasons, they must give 90-day notice, and they must provide one month’s rent for moving expenses – unless they own four or fewer units. The just cause standard does not apply to landlords who live on the same property as the tenant and have two or fewer units.

This bill also removes the statewide prohibition on cities and counties implementing local rent stabilization ordinances for residential rental units. If local jurisdictions choose to develop a local ordinance, HB 2004 ensures protections for property owners if those rent stabilization measures are implemented.



Presidential Tax Return Disclosure (HB 2909/2949)

For decades prior to the 2016 presidential election, tax returns were voluntarily released by candidates for U.S. President. This was in order to provide voters with essential information about a candidate's potential conflicts of interests, business arrangements, financial standing, charitable donations, and more. In fact, for the last 40 years, every major-party presidential nominee has made his or her tax returns public – except for Donald Trump.

This legislation would have required the candidates for President or Vice President of United States, in order to appear on general election ballot or in general election voters' pamphlet in Oregon, to provide the Secretary of State with a copy of the candidate's federal income tax returns for five years preceding the year of a general election and with written consent for public disclosure of tax returns.