



Legislative Report

May 15, 2013

Volume 23, Number 15

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Social Policy

Early Learning Meets Ways and Means



*Karen Nibler, Social
Policy Coordinator*

The Early Learning Council (ELC) was placed into the Department of Education in [HB 3234 A](#). The ELC Director and Child Care Division Director made their first presentation to the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee on April 29th and 30th. The committee members had many questions about funding levels for all programs across the state. Programs such as Head Start and Relief Nurseries are needed for more children. Employment Related Day Care does not cover all families who are eligible.

Pam Curtis, Oregon Health Sciences University policy consultant, discussed Return on Investment for prevention programs that will avoid costs later. However, it was not clear how this outcome would be measured. The Governor's Budget drew 40% of the funding from Education for Preschool-Kindergarten programs, 42% from the Employment Department for child care, and 18% from the Commission on Children and Families to fund the new administrative Division.

The implementation of the Early Learning plans, in [HB 2013 A](#), was heard in Ways and Means on May 15. This bill plans to fund seven regional hubs in the first year and another nine regional hubs in the second year. Advocates will request additional amendments for this bill, which will continue to be worked in Ways and Means. The Youth Development Division bill, [HB 3231 A](#), and implementation bill, [HB 2392 A](#), will be scheduled soon.

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Investments Questioned by Public

The Oregon Education Investment Board



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The Office of Economic Analysis will release the May

Revenue Forecast

Thursday 8:30 am
May 16th
Hearing Room A
This is open to the public.

This is important because it is the basis for the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget. You can also view it from home

Budget, [HB 3232](#), was discussed on May 1st in the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee. The budget lists investments in Early Reading, intervention and support for school age children, mentoring for at risk middle and high school students, transition programs for middle to high school, career counseling and dual credit for high school/community college. The Connecting to the World of Work initiative supports science, technology, engineering, math and arts exposure. The total budget was \$34.1 million for these programs.



Most of the public supported these concepts to improve student performance. However, two public persons testified that the school system was underfunded and these proposals do not add school days or teachers and do not reduce class size. They felt that the money would be better spent on all students in the system, rather than a select few in these incentive programs.

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The Oregon Judiciary Budget Vetted

[HB 5016](#), relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), was heard on May 6th and 7th in the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee. The budget numbers were already in the bill, as requested by the Chief Justice of the 3rd branch of state government. The Legislature reviews the budget request and makes adjustments dependent upon available funds in the Public Safety arena. Until the May 16th Economic Report, the amount available for allocations will not be known. [HB 2561](#) was a related bill to allow the Chief Justice to set fees for the use of the eCourt system.



The priorities for the OJD were to maintain the current service level in circuit courts at five days a week and to continue to roll out the eCourt system from the initial five counties to all circuit districts. The salaries for the additional 3 Appellate Judges and staff are in the budget, plus a cost of living raise for all judges. Court facilities and security projects are scheduled for a new courthouse in Union County and repairs in Curry, Gilliam, Malheur and Wallowa. The Supreme Court building preservation projects may be done in phases starting with the exterior and windows in the next biennium.

The second priority policy option packages are:

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Hearing Room Video A

National Popular Vote

Needs your help

HB 3077 is sitting in the
the
[Senate Committee on Rules](#)

Contact the
committee [members](#)
Tell them you want a
hearing.

Tell them you want
the bill passed.

Tell them more than
70% of Oregonians
favor NPV.

Tell them you want
your vote to count.

- the restoration of family court support staff,
- the continuation of treatment courts and juvenile records projects,
- a central violations bureau, and
- a raise in hourly rates for language interpreters in court hearings.

If across-the-board budget cuts are needed, OJD would have to cut staff at the circuit court and appellate court level and have no judicial salary increases. Other options were to reduce pass-through funds to law libraries, mediation services and Revenue Department debt collections, although there would be less income from collections.

The League has supported the OJD budget and repairs to courthouse facilities as a result of the Oregon Judiciary Study done in 2008. Read [letter](#) of support form March 20th.

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Governance

Gun Safety Bills

Waiting for the bills
to come up on the
Senate floor?

Don't wait

Take Action Now

[Sign this
Petition](#)

in support of
common-sense
gun reform in Oregon

**Call, write or
email**

your

[Senator](#)

They need to hear
from you NOW!

Go to

[Ceasefire Oregon](#)

for information
on the **bills**

Modernizing Voter Registration: Automation

Citing the thousands of Oregon citizens who are not registered voters, including the 40,000 who tried, but missed the 21-day registration deadline before the past three elections, the Secretary of State (SOS) advocated for [HB 3521](#) on May 8th in the House Committee on Rules. A revised version of [HB 2198](#), the proposal

calls for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to forward electronically to the SOS the names, addresses, and citizenship information of all persons receiving new driver's licenses. These persons will then be checked as to prior voter registration and be automatically registered to vote in Oregon. Each will receive a card informing them of this action and given the option to refuse registration and to choose a political party. The postpaid card will be returned to the SOS.



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

The new version of the legislation gives more flexibility and time to the county election officials who will have to record all the new voters and, possibly, redraw precinct lines. It presents an opportunity for more civic engagement and

Meet Action
Volunteer
Marge Easley



"As a former state action chair and president, I suppose it's inevitable that I get re-energized each legislative session to advocate on behalf of the League. There are always issues that pique my interest, and before I know it I'm hooked once more to research bills, write testimony, and be surrounded by a wonderful cadre of activists. I remain in awe at the dedication and knowledge base of our new and long-term volunteers."

**Thank you, Marge,
for being a member
of the
Action Team!**

Support the
Action
Committee!



Please show your appreciation of the Action Committee and the Legislative Administrator by making a donation to [LWVOR](#)

It is your support that makes it possible to

easier access to the registration process. Among others, the bill is supported by the county clerks, League of Women Voters of Oregon (see [letter](#)), Common Cause, the Bus project, students, and the Green and Working Families minority parties. An Iraq veteran who testified pointed out that Iraq is one of many countries that uses automatic registration because it is efficient and cost-effective.

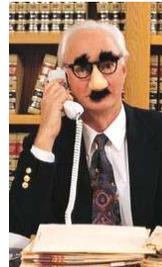
Opposition was expressed by the Republican Party (who offered to form a work group) and several citizens who are concerned about security, fraud and unreliability of the whole registration process. They also felt that voting is a personal responsibility rather than the state's.

The committee probably will move the bill, but on party lines.

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Independent Expenditures: More Campaign Disclosure

The House Committee on Rules heard [HB 3523](#) on May 8th, a proposal to shed more light on the identity of those who finance candidate and initiative campaigns outside the usual sources and without the knowledge of the official campaigns. The bill would require that independent expenditures be filed electronically with the Secretary of State and timing of reports during the 14 days prior to elections is shortened.



The three legislative sponsors of the bill addressed the issues, and the issue was well received by the committee. There are a few technical revisions to be made, and the bill will then be considered for action. Given that disclosure is the only campaign finance mechanism Oregon has, this a move in the right direction.

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Governance Bill Update

[SB 306](#): Although a work session was held on this bill to modify the corporate kicker, it is still languishing in the Senate Finance and Revenue committee. That does not mean nothing is going on. It just isn't going on in public.

[SB 148](#): The Senate Committee on Rules has passed this one, and it is waiting for a third reading in the Senate. The proposal requires the chief petitioner of an initiative

carry out this advocacy work at the Legislature

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measure who hires paid signature gatherers to perform criminal records checks on those employees. It is another good addition to the direct democracy system.

[SB 147](#), which adjusts some candidate filing deadlines and requires electronic filing, passed the Senate on a vote of 24-4.

[SB 154](#) is awaiting a third reading on May 15th. It continues the campaign finance reform regulations by requiring that any organization or entity that pays people to gather petition signatures must register with the Secretary of State.

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