



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON

Legislative Report

May 26, 2019

Volume 25, Number 15

2015 Legislative Session

In This Issue

[GOVERNANCE](#)

[NATURAL RESOURCES](#)

**Printer-Friendly
Version**

OREGON DROUGHT

Read OPB article
on [Governor Brown
extending drought
emergencies to
eight counties
\(click here\)](#).

News on
drought via Twitter.

[#ordrought](#)

[HB 3470](#)

ACTION ALERT
UPDATE: Work
Session on [HB 3470](#)
Climate and Justice
Act of 2015
postponed to 3:00
p.m. on May 27.

We need you to act now!
to assist in achieving an
affirmative vote on this
Climate Stability and
Justice Act - a Carbon Cap

[Social Policy](#)

Basic Health Care Study, Mental Health, Housing, Judicial, Legal Marijuana Regulations Debated and More



*Karen Nibler, Social
Policy Coordinator*

The Session hit a deadline this Friday to set Work Sessions for bills that will survive the rigorous review of both Senate and House Committees. June 5 is the next deadline to clear these bills and close the policy committees. Then we will celebrate or mourn and follow Budgets and Revenue.

Senate Health Care Committee

[HB 2934 A](#) asks The Oregon Health Authority to set up a stakeholder work group on the Basic Health Care expansion of Medicaid for those at 138 - 200% of poverty level and for lawfully present immigrants who have been here less than five years. The bill was passed out of committee and is on the Senate floor consent calendar. The OHA submitted the "Oregon Basic Health Program Study" report performed by Wakely Consulting Group and The Urban Institute. ([Click here for a direct link to the report that can be found on the OLIS Meeting Materials for this bill.](#))

[HB 2879 A](#) was the result of a workgroup, which recommended increased access to contraception from pharmacists. The bill was amended in House Rules and was carried over to May 27. [HB 3378 A](#) requires hospitals to give caregiver instructions to patients and family members upon release from the hospital. [HB 3464 A](#) provides dental services for pregnant women covered by Medicaid. Both were passed out of SHC and sent to the senate floor for votes.

and Allocation Bill, HB 3470, in this session

[Click here to read LWVOR Action Alert.](#)

**PERS Oregon
Supreme Court
Decision impacts
2017-2019 budget.**

[Click here to read more.](#)

**Justice
Reinvestment
ACTION ALERT
(Click here to read.)**

SB 5506

Read the Street Roots article: [Human Reinvestment](#) and see website: [Partnership for Safety & Justice](#)

The bill is still in the Joint W & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

**ACTION ALERT
SB 680**

**National
Popular Vote** 

Your involvement is needed. Senate Leadership is holding up a vote on this bill. [Read how you can help.](#)

HB 2666

Mental Health bills: [HB 2023 A](#) requires hospitals to follow policies for discharge planning for a patient's mental health treatment and transition to community based care. [HB 2948 A](#) covers situations when disclosure of health care information is necessary. Both bills were heard in SHC this week and are scheduled for next week. [HB 2420 Enrolled](#) permits the court to order the community mental health provider to evaluate a defendant's mental status and determine if the defendant can be served in the community. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

[HB 3347 A](#) was passed from Health Care to **Senate Judiciary**, where the change in the definition of person with mental illness was discussed. There was not complete agreement among those who testified for the bill, so the bill was **rescheduled for May 28**. **Senate Judiciary** also heard [HB 2557 A](#), which creates the process to expunge guilty except for insanity judgements. This bill passed to the Senate floor.

Senate Judiciary also passed [HB 2908](#), which aligned state statutes to the Federal Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2015. The bill stipulates that the child may be placed with a relative for a permanent placement or a 16 year old may be placed with a family friend or neighbor. The bill changes the goal of independent living to successful adulthood. The bill goes to the Senate floor for a vote.

Human Services and Housing

The Governor's Budget proposed \$100 million for affordable housing with Q bonds and lottery bonds. [HB 2198 A](#) sets policy for the administration of the funds by the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. The bill was heard in House Rules this week, but committee members in the minority party had many questions about the details of the program, so the vote was carried over to allow them to meet with the OHCS director. At the next meeting of House Rules, the bill was amended and passed to the Ways and Means Committee for the funding decision. Public Safety: [HB 3399 A](#) requires justice court and municipal courts to record criminal proceedings and requires new local court justices to take judicial training within the first 12 months of appointment. **The bill is rescheduled for May 28.**

The Joint Committee on Measure 91 has been meeting in the evenings, but could not reach an agreement on the regulations for the sale of legal marijuana products. The Senate President appointed a Senate Committee on M 91, which introduced [SB 964 -1](#), a gut and stuff bill including opt outs for local governments. The amended bill was sent to the

What is best for Oregon farmland?

The League strongly opposed the bill that would alter key criteria to allowing mines on EFU land and "shift balance and overly favor the mining industry."* League and other opposition were met with powerful Aggregate Industry interests wanting to push this bill through on the fast track.

(This bill is currently in House Rules)

****Click here to read LWVOR testimony in OPPOSITION.***

Are you ready for "The Big One"?

Use OPB's Aftershock website for the seismic intensity and preparation needed. Put in your address and see the results.

League Victory!

Governor Signs Firearms Safety Act, SB 941, into Law

This landmark legislation was made possible through the passion and hard work of gun safety advocates. The League's Action member, Marge Easley,

Senate floor with a do pass recommendation. The Joint Committee met soon after and heard a detailed overview of [HB 3400](#), an extensive bill on the regulations for the licenses for the producers, wholesalers, and retail, and the rules for taxation at point of sale, testing of the products, packaging and labeling, the propagation of seeds and plants, and agricultural and clinical research.

[Back to top](#)

Governance

NPV, Redistricting, Ethics, Women's Health & Wellness and More

The **National Popular Vote Compact**, [HB 3475](#), passed the House, 37-21, on May 18. When implemented, the Compact would ensure that every person's Presidential candidate vote would be counted and included across the 50 states and the District of Columbia, thus electing the person actually receiving the most votes and eliminating the "winner take all" count. The League agrees that this is as close as possible right now to the LWVUS position of direct election of the President. The bill, hopefully, is headed to a Senate committee for discussion. **[CONTACT YOUR SENATOR NOW AND REQUEST THAT THE BILL BE SCHEDULED FOR A HEARING!](#)**



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*

Two redistricting bills have moved. [HB 2974B](#), requiring that 10 statewide public hearings on any reapportionment plan must take place, passed the House, 53-5 on April 17, and the Senate, 28-1. [SB 331](#), which directs the Department of Corrections to determine the last place of residence for all prison inmates and to send the information to the Secretary of State for purposes of adding the names for local census population counts, is awaiting Senate discussion. [SB 9B](#), which passed the Senate, 30-0, was passed by the House Rules committee May 21, and sent to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government for discussion on the fiscal implications for the Secretary of State's (SOS) office. The measure directs the SOS to implement a Performance audit of state agency public records retention and disclosure practices, with analysis and recommendations on

is one who, with other volunteers and alliances helped make SB 941 law.

[Read Marge Easley's, LWVOR Action Team Member, testimony given during the marathon hearing on this bill.](#)

Another Victory for Firearms Safety

In a bipartisan effort SB 525B passes the Senate to keep guns away from domestic violence offenders.

Legislative Bill Work Session Deadlines:

Moving toward Sine Die

06/05 - Last day to hold work sessions for 2nd chamber.

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 carry out this advocacy work at the Legislature



specific criteria for dealing with the records. The report is due November 15.

Ethics: [HB 2019A](#) calls for an increase in membership for the Oregon State Ethics Commission from seven to nine persons, as well as shortening the time frames for Commission actions after receipt of claims and decisions on action. House Rules passed the bill and referred it to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government, which added \$200,000 for establishing an electronic case management system to the Commission to facilitate the timelines. It's now awaiting action in the full Ways and Means committee. [HB 2020](#) was heard in House Rules May 13 and would change the definition of "public official" to include the First Partner, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General and Commissioner of Labor and Industries and prohibit acceptance of any money or consideration for presentations or public speaking. No work session has been scheduled.

[HB 2007A](#), which makes it an employer crime to discriminate against an employee who requests wage information or who files a wage complaint, passed the House, 34-24 on party lines, and has passed from the Senate Workforce committee to the Senate floor.

Women's Health and Wellness Issues: [HB 759B](#) requires all public and private colleges and universities to adopt a written sexual assault protocol. It must ensure that victims of sexual assault will receive the necessary services and protection. It passed the Senate, 28-0 on April 22. The House Higher Education committee passed it to the **House floor where it is scheduled for a vote May 26.**

[SB 492](#) allows the use of vacation and sick leave time by victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking or harassment. The Senate passed it, 28-0, and the **House Business and Labor committee sent it to the House floor for an expected vote on May 26.**

[SB 525B](#) prohibits the possession of firearms or ammunition by persons who have a court order regarding an intimate partner or child, or have a conviction of harm to a family member. The Senate Rules committee sent it to the Senate floor where it passed, 24-6 on May 21. The **House Judiciary committee has scheduled a hearing on June 1.**

The Oregon House just passed [HJR 31](#), 47-12, giving the Legislature the power to impeach any of the five Oregon statewide public officials. The action would originate in the House on grounds of "malfeasance in office, corruption, neglect of duty or other high crime or misdemeanor". The trial would be held in the



Volunteer to work on issues
for the 2015 Legislative
Session
It's exciting!
Contact the
[LWVOR Action Team](#)

State Bonding Capacity

For the 2015-17 biennium, the maximum recommended General Fund capacity is \$974 million and lottery bonding capacity is \$161 million. Both are less than the requests. Although our bond rating is AA+, factors that affect our rating include the Kicker Law, the volatility of our personal income tax and our active initiative process. Capital Construction informational hearing was held March 20th.

Information on bond financing: [State Bond Financing in Oregon](#) from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

[Overview of the 2015 Debt Policy Advisory Commission Report](#)

[LWVOR Battle Front! Read the Issues on Social Policy, Governance and Natural Resources as captured by our LWVOR Coordinators.](#)

[Quick Links to OLIS](#)

Senate. Oregon is the only state lacking impeachment authority. Currently, the Recall procedure is the only recourse open. The bill is now in the Senate, and if passed, the proposal would be voted on at the November 2016 November General Election. "The League believes we must promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive".

[Back to Top](#)

Natural Resources

Climate Stability, Aerial Pesticides, Train Safety, ODFW, Land Use and More

[HB 3470A](#), the Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015, is still awaiting a Work Session in House Rules. It is expected to move to Ways & Means before a full House vote. **[A League Action Alert was issued \(click here\)](#)**. We hope you all [call or write your legislator](#) and tell them how important it is to address climate change **this session**. You can send testimony directly to: House Rules Committee Email: hrules.exhibits@state.or.us. League members are encouraged to ask NGOs and businesses with whom they have a working relationship to officially support [HB 3470](#) "Climate Stability and Justice Act 2015" in order to show broad community support statewide.



Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

[HB 3225](#), originally the oil train safety bill, was amended to become the accident response bill. The State Fire Marshall is assigned to create a response plan and to work with the railroad companies to be prepared in case of a serious train accident. It's disappointing that the bill isn't addressing prevention. "In Oregon, oil trains run through 15 counties, 25 legislative districts, 80 fire districts and 10 hazardous response districts, (Rep. Barbara) Smith Warner said." She was the chief sponsor of the bill. (Retrieved from [Loew, T, Statesman Journal, Oil Train Bill passes key Oregon committee, May 21, 2015](#))

[HB 3549](#) was amended to include limited (60 foot) buffers from residences and schools when aerial spray occurs in forestry management areas. The bill, like the oil train bill, addresses after-the-fact issues with herbicide spray. The Dept. of Agriculture will receive

[OR State Legislature](#)

[Legislative Audio and Video](#)

[View the Bills](#)

[Find & Contact your State Senator and Representative](#)

Read Peter Wong's Portland Tribune Article: [State Revenue Forecast: Kicker on the way](#)
Get the reactions from Governor Brown and Others

Read the Office of Economic Analysis [May 14 Revenue Forecast](#)



LWVOR UPDATES
HEALTH CARE PAYER STATEMENT ([click here](#))

League Links

[LWVOR Action Team](#)

[LWV of Oregon](#)

[LWV of the US](#)

Join Our Mailing List

LWV Testimony

beefed up staffing to investigate complaints, helicopter sprayers will need to get increased training and there will be a "hot line" for filing complaints. Oregon will continue to be way behind our counterparts in surrounding states in protecting the public from these spraying practices. We continue to advocate for Policy **Option Package 151** in the Department of Forestry budget ([HB 5019](#)) to increase public notification to nearby residents for a variety of forest operations. Curry County League President Lucie La Bonte provided written testimony and drove to Salem to watch the hearing, which was restricted to "invited testimony only". (Read the [Davis, R, Narrow weed killer-no spray zones endorsed by House committee, May 21, 2015, Oregonian/Oregon Live.](#))

An agreement was tentatively reached to add \$2 million in General Funds, modify the proposed license/fee increase ([SB 247](#)) and stop the most severe cuts proposed in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget ([SB 5511](#)). However, a controversy regarding appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission may undo the compromise. Early in the session, the League supported a bill ([HB 3474](#)) that would allow the Elliott State Forest to be transferred to a public trust. That bill is "dead", but [HB 3533](#), a bill that would allow the state to sell the Elliott, is still alive. The League understands the nexus between the Elliott and the Common School Fund, but we also understand that the Elliott is the home of several endangered species, making it difficult to get approval to log. Instead, it makes sense to preserve the 40,000 acres in the heart of the Elliott and create a realistic management plan for the rest.

[SB 534](#) has been scheduled for a **Work Session on May 26**. It would allow urban services be extended to airports-across farmland. Originally the Aurora Airport was the target, but other airports have now seen this as a way to make mini-industrial enclaves outside of small cities. The Chair of House Rural Communities has promised amendments, but we have yet to see those proposals.

[HB 3212](#) has a "relating to land use" clause that could make it a vehicle for "gutting and stuffing" the contents of [SB 25](#) or [SB 716](#), both bills we thought were dead for the session. The contents of either would violate the tenets of our award-winning land use planning program. [HB 3212](#) is scheduled for a **public hearing and possible work session on June 1** in the Senate Business and Transportation Committee.

We are still watching [HB 2666](#), an aggregate bill we oppose. It is sitting in House Rules and no hearings



Follow Us



Like Us

are currently scheduled. The aggregate industry is looking for a way to pass the bill or get the "safe harbor" provision folded into another bill. These last-of-session activities keep the Action Team busy!

Bills in Ways and Means We SUPPORT: [SB 246A](#)-onsite septic loan program, [SB 266A](#)-place-based water planning, [HB 2633A](#)-natural hazards planning, [SB 830A](#)-suction dredge mining, [SB 952A](#)-task force on natural resource agencies (both funding and efficiencies). With each of these bills, the Ways and Means Committee will need to weigh these requests for funding and their policies against current programs and funding needs.

Bills in Ways and Means We OPPOSE: [HB 3089A](#)-relating to mining. With the legislature increasing its funding to help manage the sage grouse and stop it from being listed under the Endangered Species Act, it seems silly to encourage mining in the heart of their habitat.

Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator; Claudia Keith, Climate Change Portfolio; Jennifer Haynes, Forests and Pesticides Portfolios; Marge Easley, Land Use and Aggregate/Mining Portfolio

[Back to Top](#)

[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to lwvor@lwvor.org by lwvor@lwvor.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

League of Women Voters of Oregon | 1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200 | Salem | OR | 97302