



Dalton Advocacy INC

FWAA Legislative Update – Week 7

To-date, 2,620 bills have been filed. Moving forward, new legislative concepts are limited to priority member or committee bills which could add an additional 450 bills to the table. The next major deadline is March 29th. This is the date that Chairs must post bills for Work Sessions. If bills are not posted in the next 4-weeks they are “dead” – unless they are in a Joint Committee or Finance/Revenue Committee. Below are issue highlights from this week:

Senate President Leadership

Senator Courtney announced a 10-day medical leave of absence from the Legislature. While he is gone, Senate President Pro Tempore Laurie Monnes Anderson will manage the day-to-day operations of the Senate. Rumors continue that this could mark a permanent departure for Senator Courtney and could result in a dramatic shift in leadership and overall tone and tenure in the traditionally more moderate Senate.

In the news: <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-senate-president-peter-courtney-medical-leave-harassment-scrutiny/>

And settlement news: <https://www.wweek.com/news/2019/03/05/the-oregon-legislature-will-pay-more-than-1-million-to-eight-victims-of-sexual-harassment-many-of-the-complaints-lead-back-to-peter-courtney/>

Co-Chairs Budget Framework Released

The Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Committee released their budget framework this week. Their proposal calls for a 5% reduction across all services except education and healthcare. The plan also allocates an additional 1% to the state’s rainy day fund. The State is expected to bring in \$20.6 billion by the end of June, \$147 million more than originally expected. The budget framework does not rely on any new revenue, outside of the Hospital and Insurer tax extensions/increases passed in recent weeks. These taxes will fund \$379M of the \$800M Medicaid funding gap. Accordingly, the framework includes \$350M of general fund dollars – monies that the Governor hopes will be replaced with a tobacco tax and a tax on employers with employees on Medicaid. The framework is now handed off to the Co-Chairs of the Subcommittees where specific agency budgets will be crafted. The budget proposal also would eliminate \$28 million in existing tax breaks and did not specify which would go away. The last revenue forecast before lawmakers finalize the state budget is May 15th – which could result in additional tax revenue. Legislators will plan to approve a final budget by June. View framework here: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2019-21%20Co-Chair%20Balanced%20Budget.pdf>

HB 2498 – Independent Contractor Bill

Heard by the House Rules Committee this week, HB 2498 modifies the test used to distinguish between employee and independent contractors in several different settings. Business, employer and agricultural interest showed up in strong opposition to this bill, with over 1.5

hours of testimony received. A -1 amendment was introduced that would move the new proposed test that the services provided by the contractor fall outside of the “usual course of business” into a list of 6 elements, 4 of which would have to be satisfied if an individual could be classified as an independent contractor. The amendments do not alleviate concerns and additional conversations are taking place with the Sponsor.

HB 2020 - Cap and Trade

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction only met once this week, after taking their Committee on the road over the last couple of weeks. On Friday, the Committee heard from an invited panel on Energy Efficiency and Assistance Programs for low-income Oregonians. These programs could potentially be funded through revenues collected from HB 2020. On Monday the Committee will hear from Peter Daugherty, the State Forester from the OR Department of Forestry on the OR Forest Ecosystem Carbon Report.

HB 2772 - Household Hazardous Waste Bill

This bill requires both the manufacturer and retailer of certain “hazardous” household products to provide information to consumers at the time of sale. Retailers drafted an amendment with the Sponsor that would: (1) require retailers to post this information on your website to comply with the law (in lieu of shelf talkers/check stand handouts); require manufacturers to provide this information to you electronically; and (3) reduce the \$25,000 fee to \$100 per day (the current penalty for the PaintShare product takeback program). This amendment was adopted. View here: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/14053>

Action: Voted out of committee on a party-line vote of 6-2 with Republicans voting NO. The bill now moves to Ways and Means for further funding discussions. A full fiscal was not conducted prior to advancing the bill.

The Joint Committee on Student Success

The Joint Committee on Student Success subcommittees continued to meet this week, with informational hearings to provide the committee members on a variety of topics across the education spectrum. They have received several presentations from other states on what is working there, relative to accountability systems.

The Revenue Subcommittee dove into some specific on a gross receipts type tax scenario this week. One of which can be seen here:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/168827>

Hearings of Interest Next Week:

HB 2656 - Prohibits certain forest operation activities on forestland that supplies drinking water for one or more public water systems.

HB 3326/HB 3340 - Declares harmful algal blooms to be menace to public health and welfare.

HB 3090 – Establishes beginning farmer and rancher incentive program in State Department of Agriculture.



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