

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

The seal of the State of Oregon is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The shield contains a plow and a sheaf of wheat. Below the shield is a banner with the words "THE UNION". The entire seal is encircled by the text "STATE OF OREGON" and "1859".

**Senate Democrats
2011 Legislative
Accomplishments**



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS 2011 SESSION AGENDA CHECKLIST

Oregon Senate Democrats are committed to facing the state's financial challenges with a clear set of priorities: growing jobs, protecting our children's future, and looking out for the most vulnerable. Like most Oregonians, we understand the importance of doing more with less and setting clear priorities to make Oregon a better place to own a small business and raise a family. This Session, Oregon Senate Democrats:

Promoted economic growth by helping Oregon small businesses create jobs and by providing our children with a quality education. *Oregon Senate Democrats recognize that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and a strong education system is key to rebuilding our state. We stood by this commitment, passing legislation that:*

- ✓ Removes barriers to loans and capital while creating a one-stop shop for businesses to get up and running in Oregon; (SB 494, HB 3247)
- ✓ Fights to make sure our children have the best education and workforce training to lead the way in a new economy; (SB 5552, SB 5553, SB 175, HB 3362)
- ✓ Protects our investments in Oregon's children and our state's future by continuing our commitment to early childhood education programs; and (HB 5055)
- ✓ Continues Oregon's competitive advantage in the green economy to promote Oregon-based businesses, harness home-grown energy, and advance the innovative technologies of the future. (SB 862, HB 2960)

Supported Oregon families and businesses that play by the rules by going after those who break the law, cheat consumers, and deceive investors. *Oregon Senate Democrats continue to stand up for Oregon families and businesses. We kept our promise to promote fairness for Oregonians by:*

- ✓ Building on our achievements in providing health care coverage to Oregonians, especially to Oregon children, while implementing cost control measures for families and small businesses; (SB 99, HB 3650)
- ✓ Continuing to make sure our laws protect Oregon families against predatory financial schemes and scams; and (SB 487 & SB 292)
- ✓ Ensuring that the tools available to Oregonians who are facing foreclosure are being properly implemented. (SB 827)

Improved government accountability and responsiveness so we can protect vital services for working families. *Oregon Senate Democrats have led the charge to modernize state government, get the greatest value out of every tax dollar, and make sure all levels of government are accountable to Oregonians. We will continue these efforts by:*

- ✓ Protecting taxpayer dollars by demanding greater transparency and efficiency and by making sure state agencies are implementing common-sense audit recommendations; (HB 2825, HB 2788, HB 3291)
- ✓ Evaluating tax credits to ensure they are creating jobs and stimulating the economy; (HB 3672)
- ✓ Modernizing the delivery of services to meet the needs of Oregonians by updating technology and utilizing innovative tools; and (SB 14, HB 2136, HB 3105)
- ✓ Increasing government accountability by implementing fixed-length annual sessions that offer the greatest cost savings possible.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development

SB 494—Removing barriers for Oregon's small businesses, creating jobs

Removes barriers to loans and capital for Oregon's small businesses by removing the sunset and making permanent the changes in the Access to Business Capital Act, passed by the Legislature in February 2010. This program frees up hard to come by business capital and has already created hundreds of jobs across Oregon.

SB 219—Attracting high wage jobs

Helps create the high-wage, high-skill jobs Oregon needs to grow our economy by establishing the Oregon Business Retention and Expansion Program (BEP), which will offer forgivable loans to encourage businesses to expand and locate in Oregon. The BEP incentive will be based on the estimated increase in new personal income tax revenue resulting from the new hires from a business expansion or relocation.

SB 301—Tax relief for businesses, students and parents

“Reconnects” the Oregon tax code to key provisions in federal tax code, streamlining the filing process and allowing businesses to claim a deduction for bonus depreciation, parents to claim a tax deduction for covering children on their health insurance up to age 27, and college students to deduct tuition expenses.

SB 637 & SB 638—Helping unemployed Oregonians make ends meet

Provides unemployment benefit extensions through the federal Extended Benefits Program and Oregon's Emergency Benefits Program, helping 25,000 eligible Oregonians who continue to struggle finding work. These dollars go directly into our local economies through rent, groceries and other essential items.

HB 3247—"One stop shop" for Oregon business registry

Directs the Secretary of State to create and maintain a “One Stop Shop for Oregon Business” web portal to help businesses start, expand, relocate, or operate in Oregon. Business owners will be able to update, maintain, and track progress about their registration information online through this portal.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

HB 3507—Supporting Oregon's innovation economy

Authorizes the Oregon Innovation Council to make grants and loans of seed money to encourage economic growth in Oregon's clean energy sector. The Oregon Innovation Council partners with the private sector and universities to commercialize cutting edge research, revitalize established industries and increase competitiveness, help start-ups access capital, and provide Oregon businesses with access to development laboratories and researchers.

SB 175—Improving workforce skills, helping new workers

Establishes two workforce development programs modeled after successful pilot programs that were funded with federal stimulus dollars. Senate Bill 175 creates the "Putting Oregon Back to Work Program" to improve Oregon's workforce skills and the "Oregon Youth Employment Program" within the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to provide teenagers with valuable job experience.

HB 3000—"Buy Oregon First"

Supports Oregon's economy by allowing state and local government agencies to pay up to ten percent extra to purchase goods and services produced within the state rather than outside of Oregon. This will give Oregon businesses and industries a well-deserved home advantage.

SB 935—Expanding the "tools of the trade" exemption

Helps Oregonians get back on their feet by increasing the amount that they are allowed to exempt from bankruptcy to protect business equipment vital to their ability to earn a living. This bill increases the "tools of the trade" exemption from \$3,000 to \$5,000 dollars.

HB 2770—Exploring new ways to attract small business to Oregon

Helps small businesses by exploring the possibility of establishing a Business Ombudsman to serve as a central contact for answering questions and coordinating information about doing business in Oregon.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

SB 766—Accelerating economic growth, creating jobs

Establishes an expedited process for approving significant industrial development projects throughout the state. Senate Bill 766 assures that proposed industrial projects with the greatest jobs potential are able to get fast and definitive approvals for required state and local land use approvals.

HB 2879—Helping Oregon's growing businesses

Supports businesses that generate significant job growth by extending the Grow Oregon Council to facilitate business access to international markets, market research, and other supports.

HB 2069—Helping build our communities and create jobs

Helps communities access capital for infrastructure projects that create jobs by extending the loan terms for special public work projects to 30 years.

SB 667— Helping small businesses apply for public contracts *

Helps minority, women, and emerging small businesses by leveling the playing field on indefinite quantity contracts. These are the contracts that public agencies use when they anticipate the future need for architectural, engineering, land surveying, and other similar services.

HB 3017—Protecting Enterprise Zones to support economic development

Provides a powerful incentive for economic development by extending the sunset date for Oregon's 59 enterprise zones from June 30, 2013 to June 30, 2025, allowing communities to continue to offer property tax incentives to businesses within these zones.

SJM 18—Urging Congress to stand on the side of small businesses *

Credit card companies can take a big fee from businesses when they process debit or credit cards. These fees can add up fast for small businesses, prompting this call to Congress to intervene on behalf of merchants.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

HB 2960—“Cool Schools” creating jobs, saving money

Promotes energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades at Oregon schools, saving valuable education dollars that would otherwise go to utility bills, and creating jobs in communities across Oregon.

SB 57—Expanding clean energy and technology projects, creating jobs

Authorizes the Oregon Business Development Commission to use revenue bonds to finance projects for electric energy generation, transmission, sale or distribution, creating jobs in these growing fields.

SB 586—Diversifying green energy requirements *

Modifies current requirements that contracts for the construction or major renovation of public buildings dedicate 1.5 percent of the contract price specifically to solar energy technology to allow the 1.5 percent to be dedicated to any green energy technology.

SB 192—Creating jobs in our forests *

Requires State Workforce Investment Board to include in its plan for green job growth an analysis of jobs in the forest products industry. SB 192 would help determine key growth factors, employment projections, and key workforce development needs to put people to work in Oregon's forests.

HB 3538—Adopting statewide standards for Carbon Equivalent Offsets

Allows Oregon utilities to offset CO2 emissions through "carbon equivalent" emissions reduction strategies throughout the state. Creates additional flexibility for utilities and increased investment in projects such as dairy digesters, waste-water treatment, organic waste digestion projects, and improved nutrient management techniques on farms, while achieving the same level of environmental benefit.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

SB 99—Helping small business provide health insurance

Creates the Oregon Health Care Exchange, a health care marketplace that will provide 350,000 Oregonians with access to affordable, quality health care. The exchange will help more small businesses offer and provide affordable health care to their employees.

HB 2700—Improving permitting processes for utilities and development

Streamlines permitting for sewer, road and other linear facility projects, creating jobs and significant economic development opportunities across Oregon.

SB 862—Setting the stage for more Oregon forest jobs, helping rural areas

Advances the development of woody biomass opportunities in Oregon by providing direction to the Oregon Department of Forestry and requiring them to conduct an inventory of potential resources across the state. Biomass has the potential to create jobs in Oregon forests, reduce the risks of forest fires, and provide a clean and renewable energy source.

SB 264—Better management of our highways

Expedites approval of roads to provide access to state highways from businesses and provides objective standards to govern the approval process. This will save time and resources for Oregon industries dependent on state roads.

SB 437—Confidentiality for local economic development records

Ensures that local communities have the same ability as the state to keep the details of economic development deals confidential until they are final, giving companies looking to relocate or expand some assurance their interest isn't made public too early.

HB 2563—Supporting Oregon's core industries

Helps create and retain jobs in key sectors of Oregon's economy by extending the sunset on property tax exemptions for food processing equipment from July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2013; extending the sunset on exemptions for solar, geothermal, wind, water, fuel cell, or methane gas energy systems from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2018; and removing the sunset on exemptions for environmentally sensitive logging equipment.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

HB 2919—Hiring incentives for Oregon veterans

Adds veterans to the types of employees that a business can hire to qualify for a grant through the Building Opportunities for Oregon Small Business Today (BOOST) program.

HB 2678—Supports small businesses by updating bad check fees

Helps small businesses cover costs by increasing the cap of \$25.00 for dishonored checks, which has been in place for twenty-two years, to a fee of \$35.00.

HB 2800—Feeding kids healthy, locally-grown foods

Allows more Oregon schools to participate in programs that provide local healthy food options, which support local farms. HB 2800 creates a grant program administered by the Department of Education to support the purchase of local foods for Oregon schools and educational activities related to Oregon agricultural products.

HB 2868—Supporting food vendors at farmers' markets

Relieves some of the current licensing burden on small temporary restaurants, such as those found at farmers' markets, by establishes a licensing system for three different types of temporary restaurants: intermittent temporary restaurants; seasonal temporary restaurants; and single event temporary restaurants.

HB 2947—Supporting local Oregon honey

Requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing standards of identity, quality requirements, and labeling requirements for honey sold in Oregon.

HB 2336—Supporting Oregon's growing farmers' markets

Makes it easier for farmers to sell directly to consumers at farmers' markets by exempting fresh fruits and vegetables, fruit jams and jellies, dried fruits, honey, eggs, and other agricultural products from state laws regulating food establishments.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

SB 960—Helping Oregon's wineries do more business

Establishes clear and uniform statewide standards allowing owners of agricultural lands to supplement their primary income with limited events and activities while avoiding potentially negative impacts to neighborhoods.

HB 3280—Supporting diverse events at wineries

Allows wineries sited on farmland to offer a greater range of services on site and to host events on their grounds, providing venues for new activities that attract visitors and support Oregon's growing wine industry.

HB 2924—Helping Oregon's breweries do more business

Creates greater market parity for Oregon's craft breweries by bringing rules for breweries into closer alignment with those for brewpubs and wineries. As a result of the bill, the alcohol percentage is no longer a limiting factor when a brewery sells to a member of the general public, and the minimum quantity for such sales is lowered from 5 gallons to 4 gallons.

HB 3465—Economic development for rural Oregon

Allows for development of a large-scale guest ranch in Grant County that has the potential to attract tourism and jobs in hard-hit Eastern Oregon.

SB 817—Encouraging investment in low-income areas

Creates the Oregon Low Income Community Jobs Initiative, a program that will use tax incentives to attract investments, including money from outside Oregon, to low-income communities, helping create much-needed jobs in some of the state's most economically-depressed communities.

SB 5528—Fostering growth in international markets

Increased support for the Oregon Trade Promotion Program, which helps Oregon companies grow and create jobs by giving them tools to explore entering new international markets.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Jobs & Economic Development (*continued*)

HB 5508—Giving Oregonians the tools to take on high-demand jobs

Provides funding for the Community College and Workforce Development Department to expand Oregon's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and on-the-job training programs. This will help connect job seekers to the training and certifications they need to qualify for not only high-demand occupations in healthcare and welding, but also for new occupations in wind power and other clean-technologies.

SB 5528—Resources for Oregon's small businesses

Gives Oregon's small businesses extra support they need by increasing funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network. Twenty-three SBDCs located across Oregon help entrepreneurs access capital, hire and train employees, market their products and services, and more.

SB 5528—Loans to help Oregon businesses create jobs

Invests in the Strategic Reserve Fund, which provides forgivable loans to help Oregon businesses create and retain jobs. Companies that receive a loan from the SRF are subject to clawback provisions that mean they must repay the funds if they don't meet certain conditions.

SB 5528—Supporting a regional green job growth strategy

Invests in developing regional economic development opportunities and a West Coast strategy to create jobs while reducing both carbon emissions and the costs of doing business by retrofitting and redesigning the built environment.

SB 5508—Investing in Oregon's infrastructure

Will create much-needed construction jobs by investing \$12.5 million for multimodal transportation projects.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Strong schools for our kids

SB 248—Free full-day kindergarten

Sets up a funding mechanism for providing full-day kindergarten, at no cost to families, by 2015. Schools will be able to opt-in to providing full-day kindergarten but will no longer be able to charge tuition. Studies show that increased learning time for kindergartners provides long term benefits to both the individual children and society as a whole.

SB 552—Restructuring the Department of Education

Establishes the Governor as the Superintendent of Public Instruction, allowing him or her to appoint a Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction to oversee the management of Oregon's K-12 public schools. SB 552 gives the Governor authority to appoint the most qualified leader at the helm of our public schools. Currently, many effective educational leaders are unlikely to leave current positions to run a statewide campaign for an office they may not win that pays less than half of the annual salary of a large school district superintendent.

SB 909—Setting a comprehensive vision for education at all levels

Establishes the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). The OEIB will oversee a unified public education system from grades zero to 20. This is a critical step in the effort to eliminating the silos in the current education system and moving toward an education model that coordinates the full spectrum of education, from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary.

SB 5552 & SB 5553—Giving schools certainty in their budgeting

Passes the budget for K-12 schools early in session, giving schools certainty in funding levels as they plan for the upcoming school year. Allocated \$200 million more than in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

HB 5055—Prioritizing funding for Oregon's schools

Allocates an additional \$38.5 million for all K-12 schools and designates additional dollars to rural schools, Head Start and other areas of the education system for grades 0-20. HB 5055 also ensures that Oregon meets federal maintenance of effort requirements for higher education and special education.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Strong schools for our kids (*continued*)

HB 5020 & HB 5055—Increasing funding for Head Start

Increases funding for Head Start, the program that prepares children from low-income families for kindergarten, improving their chances of success in school and later in life. The total budget for Head Start is 16.5% higher for the 2011-13 biennium than it was for the last biennium, a notable increase during a session where many programs had to be cut to balance the budget.

SB 800—Mandate relief for Oregon schools

Removes outdated, unnecessary or redundant provisions in education statutes related to evaluations, reporting requirements, filings, and preparation and distribution of education laws, policies, curriculum requirements. Removing these burdensome requirements will allow more time for teaching and learning.

SB 244—Giving Oregon’s kids more time in the classroom

Requires the Department of Education to encourage increased learning time to improve educational achievement outcomes.

SB 254—Giving students a running start on college

Gives high school students a jump on college credits and expenses by requiring school districts to provide or ensure access to accelerated college credit programs, also referred to as “dual credit” courses. Dual credit courses are those in which a high school student earns both college and high school credits.

SB 290—Setting high standards for teachers and school administrators

Directs the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission, to adopt statewide core teaching standards. This will help improve student academic growth and learning by assisting school districts in determining the effectiveness of teachers and administrators, while improving professional development and classroom and administrative practices.

HB 3474—Improving education through teacher training opportunities

Improves preparation of teachers and administrators to encourage approved teacher education programs and school district partnerships. HB 3474 directs the Department of Education and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to collaborate on a leadership development system and proposes uniform guidelines for model core teaching standards that align with updated national standards.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Strong schools for our kids (*continued*)

SB 480—Providing nutritious meals to low-income children

Helps more Oregon schools, agencies, and community groups participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Afterschool Meal and Snack Program by establishing a grant program, making sure more low-income kids don't have to go home hungry.

HB 2800—Feeding kids healthy, locally-grown foods

Allows more Oregon schools to participate in programs that provide local healthy food options and support local farms. HB 2800 creates a grant program administered by the Department of Education to support the purchase of local foods for Oregon schools and educational activities related to Oregon agricultural products.

SB 250—Giving schools a choice on Education Service Districts (ESDs)

In these challenging times, it's more important than ever that Oregon schools have greater say in where they direct their resources. SB 250 is a reform that will give some school districts more freedom to decide whether to participate in an ESD.

HB 2280—Improving oversight of ESDs

Allows the Department of Education to initiate a financial or performance audit of a school district or education service district (ESD). House Bill 2280 removes the discretion of districts to volunteer for audits and expands the scope to include performance audits.

SB 255—Updating Oregon's charter school law

This consensus legislation updates charter school laws, including extending timelines for applications to establish new charter schools, clarifying that charter schools are bound by non-profit laws and setting out a mediation process in the event of disputes.

SB 670—Expanding federal loan forgiveness for middle school teachers at Oregon's low-income schools

Allows qualified Oregon middle school teachers to receive a greater amount of loan forgiveness under a federal program that encourages teachers to work in low-income schools.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Strong schools for our kids (*continued*)

HB 2960—“Cool Schools” creating jobs, saving money

Promotes energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades at Oregon schools, saving valuable education dollars that would otherwise go to utility bills and creating jobs in communities across Oregon.

SB 453—Classroom dollars for rural schools

SB 453 will help Oregon’s smaller, rural schools qualify for the funds they need to provide a quality education. This bill drives resources to twenty-two small elementary schools around the state.

HB 3417—Financial oversight of charter schools

Helps safeguard taxpayer dollars by requiring charter school financial management systems to be compatible with those of the sponsoring school district.

HB 2180—Providing opportunities for gifted children

Requires school districts to submit a written plan of instruction for talented and gifted children to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SB 3—Removing outdated and offensive references in Oregon statutes

Modifies terminology in education statutes from “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability.”

HB 3197—Making sure parents know if their student is truant

Requires school districts notify parents before the end of the school day when a child is absent.

HB 2939—Prohibiting the use of restraints on children

Offers protections for students in Oregon schools or youth services so that they are not physically or emotionally harmed by the inappropriate use of restraint or seclusion. House Bill 2939 prohibits the use of mechanical, chemical and prone restraint in public education programs. Additionally, it defines when specified physical restraint and seclusion may be used in public education programs and outlines the reports required after the use of physical restraint or seclusion.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Strong schools for our kids (*continued*)

SB 602—Requiring Oregon studies to be taught in middle school *

Boosts civic pride and local knowledge by requiring Oregon studies to be taught in middle school classrooms across the state.

HB 5508—Inspiring kids to pursue engineering with real world experience

Allocates funds for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Program to develop ways to inspire students in the engineering and technology fields. This includes support for the Robotics Competition , which is designed to inspire high school students to become engineers by giving them real world experience working with engineers to develop a robot.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Higher Education Reform

SB 242—Landmark restructuring of the Oregon University System

Restructures the Oregon University System to give individual schools greater control of their finances and decision-making. This will allow them to better plan for the future, lower their costs and tuition over the long term, and improve the educational experience for students. This landmark reform also puts our community colleges and public universities at the same table for the first time – allowing them to comprehensively plan for the future.

SB 254—Giving students a running start on college

Gives high school students a jump on college credits and expenses by requiring school districts to provide or ensure access to accelerated college credit programs, also referred to as “dual credit” courses. Dual credit courses are those in which a high school student earns both college and high school credits.

SB 252— Setting unified education goals for Oregon

Sets the stage for higher education reform by codifying the 40-40-20 standard that has long been discussed in Oregon. SB 253 provides direction for the Legislature and other policy makers to reinvest and commit to higher education in Oregon by meeting the goals of at least 40 percent of Oregonians having a bachelor’s degree or higher, 40 percent with an associate’s degree or post-secondary credential, and 20 percent with a high school diploma or equivalent as their highest level of education

SB 742—Tuition Equity Bill for Oregon students *

Grants in-state tuition to students entering the Oregon University System who have attended and graduated from an Oregon high school, been admitted to an Oregon University, and who are actively working toward U.S. citizenship.

HB 3418—Encouraging innovation in higher education

Creates a 17-member Task Force on Higher Education Student and Institutional Success and directs it to analyze best practices and models for student and institutional success, examine barriers to and study methods for acquisition of basic skills and career preparation, and identify alternative funding options.

* Did not pass in the House

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Higher Education Reform (*continued*)

HB 3106—Helping at-risk kids make the transition to college

Requires school districts to give priority for participation in Expanded Options Program to eligible at-risk students. The Expanded Options program helps kids transition into post-secondary education by creating opportunities to earn college credits and take courses at college campuses while still in high school.

HB 3471—Helping foster kids transition to college

Requires Oregon's seven public universities, 17 community colleges, and the Oregon Health Sciences University to waive tuition and fees to young adults under the age of 25 who have been a part of the state's foster care system.

HB 2728—Helping families save for college

Helps Oregon families save for their child's college education by allowing taxpayers to make direct deposit contributions of personal income tax refunds into an Oregon 529 College Savings Network account.

HB 2221—Encouraging foreign language proficiency for Oregon students

Establishes a higher education scholarship program to reward foreign language proficiency and encourages continued improvement in foreign language with renewable scholarship opportunities of up to \$2,000 per year to students demonstrating proficiency in reading, writing and speaking in a language other than English.

SB 301—Tax relief to students and parents

“Reconnects” the Oregon tax code to key provisions in federal tax code, including provisions that allow college students to deduct tuition expenses.

HB 3521—Helping college students earn their bachelors degrees

Directs the Board of Education to develop a Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to clarify protocol for transferring credits between the Oregon universities. In addition to specifying how credits earned at community colleges will transfer to universities, the measure allows community colleges to confer associate degrees by accepting credits students have earned at universities.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Workforce Development

SB 175—Improving workforce skills, helping new workers

Establishes two workforce development programs modeled after successful pilot programs previously funded with federal stimulus dollars. Senate Bill 175 creates the "Putting Oregon Back to Work Program" to improve Oregon's workforce skills and the "Oregon Youth Employment Program" within the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to provide teenagers with valuable job experience.

HB 3362—Teaching career skills to high school students

Reinvigorates career and technical education (CTE) in Oregon public schools. House Bill 3362 paves the way for increased collaboration between school districts on CTE skill centers and charter schools, and establishes a \$2 million grant program to fund CTE-centered programs across Oregon.

HB 5508—Inspiring kids to pursue engineering with real world experience

Allocated funds for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Program to develop ways to inspire students in the engineering and technology fields. This includes support for the Robotics Competition , which is designed to inspire high school students to become engineers by giving them real world experience working with engineers to develop a robot.

HB 2353—Helping Oregonians prepare for 21st century jobs

Clarifies requirements for obtaining accreditation from Oregon's Career Readiness Certification program.

HB 3309—Preventing criminal recidivism by providing job services

Authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish an on-the-job training program for offenders released back into the community from DOC who need training to secure jobs or retain employment.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health

SB 99—Establishing a health insurance exchange, helping small businesses and uninsured Oregonians

Creates the Oregon Health Care Exchange, a central health insurance marketplace that meets our state's unique needs and isn't a cookie-cutter model imposed by the federal government. SB 99 mitigates disparities and empowers consumers by giving them a one-stop-shop to compare plans, while ensuring access to affordable, high-quality health care.

HB 3650—Landmark overhaul of health care delivery

Creates a new approach to health care, improving the way Oregon serves the state's 600,000 Medicaid beneficiaries while also cutting costs. By setting up "coordinated care organizations" that serve defined geographic areas, low income and elderly patients will benefit from integrated, comprehensive care that covers primary and mental health care, addiction services, and oral health care.

SB 514—Guaranteeing access to health insurance for sick kids

Ensures that children with high-risk medical conditions can get health insurance year round and can stay on the same insurance plan as their parents.

SB 91—Health insurance options for Oregonians

Sets requirements for health insurance plans that will participate in the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange to ensure that the Exchange functions efficiently.

SB 94—Streamlining health care reporting requirements to save time and money

Saves money and eliminates red tape by directing the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop uniform standards for health care financial and administrative transactions.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 433—Covering breast and cervical cancer treatment for low-income women
Expands eligibility of low-income women for the treatment of breast and cervical cancer if they are diagnosed through a health care provider outside of the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Currently, a loophole means many women can't get access to life-saving treatment.

SB 858—Increasing access to health care provided by nurse practitioners *
Requires insurers to reimburse independent nurse practitioners at the same rate as physicians for the same services, increasing access to primary care and making sure equal work receives equal pay.

SB 787—Expanding access to health care services for rural Oregonians
Expands telemedicine services by requiring health benefit plans to cover diabetes-related telemedical health services, allowing individuals and their providers to manage diabetes collaboratively without requiring a visit to their health care provider's office.

HB 2366—Increasing access to primary care
Addresses the shortage of primary health care providers in some Oregon communities by directing the Oregon Health Authority to develop a strategic plan for recruiting primary care providers to Oregon.

SB 952—Increasing access to health care *
Allows qualified physicians' assistants to dispense certain drugs, expanding access to health care.

SB 101—Dental care for kids
Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to provide dental wraparound or dental premium coverage to underinsured or uninsured children enrolled in certain insurance programs provided by the state. This will bring Oregon into compliance with federal requirements and ensuring that kids have access to the dental care they need to be healthy.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 738—Expanding dental care to underserved communities

Expands access to dental services for underserved populations, such as low-income or rural Oregonians, by allowing qualified dental hygienists to provide essential dental hygiene services and creating a process to set up pilot projects that will help expand access to dental care.

SB 97—Setting standards for improving health care for diverse populations *

Addresses health disparities by establishing a protocol and next steps for creating cultural competency standards for Oregon's health professional regulatory boards.

SB 95—Facilitating communication between a doctor and their patient

A product of the Medical Liability Task Force, this bill requires insurers to defend claims of malpractice if the claim is based on disclosure of an adverse event by the health practitioner to the patient or patient's family.

SB 238—More time with patients, less with paperwork

Streamlines paperwork requirements by the Oregon Health Authority so that doctors can spend more time taking care of patients and less with unnecessary and cumbersome forms and reports.

SB 237—Protecting whistleblowers on matters of public health *

Extends whistleblower protection to additional hospital staff members, ensuring that if a staff person reports information about violations that potentially pose a risk to public and patient health, they will not face retaliation. Currently, nurses have this protection.

SB 573—Helping health care providers focus on patients by limiting insurance refund requests *

Senate Bill 573 reduces from two years to the earlier of nine months, or a date specified by contract, the time period in which a health insurer may request a refund from a provider. These requests are often cumbersome and time intensive.

* Did not pass in the House

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 608—Access to health care in rural Oregon

Improves access to health care in rural communities by renewing the Rural Medical Liability Subsidy Fund, which provides payments to insurers that subsidize the cost of medical malpractice liability insurance premiums for some rural physicians and nurse practitioners. These premiums can be cost prohibitive to many medical professionals in rural Oregon.

SB 88—Protecting the chronically ill or disabled with long term care policies

Establishes consumer protection provisions for long term care policy holders by requiring the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt rules for both prompt payment and internal and external review procedures. Currently, these insurance policies are not subject to many of Oregon's consumer protection regulations and receive many complaints.

SB 579—Providing advocates for incapacitated patients

Allows a hospital to appoint a health care provider or an ethics committee to make health care decisions on behalf of an incapacitated patient who needs medical care and has no known advance directive, relative, or friend.

HB 2325—Addressing the abuse of Oregon's seniors

Creates a volunteer work group to look into the problem of elder abuse in the state and to report their findings before next year's legislative session.

SB 348—Raising awareness about Lupus

Raises awareness and educates people about Lupus, an autoimmune disease, by designating May of each year “Lupus Awareness Month.”

HB 2014—Reporting suspicious injuries

Extends protections to nurses under Oregon's mandatory reporting law, which requires health care and other professionals to report injuries to the medical examiner when they have probable cause to believe that an injury wasn't received accidentally.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 398—Protecting persons with disabilities from criminal intimidation

Adds “disability” to the list of classes including race, color, religion, and sexual orientation, that are protected from intimidation under state law.

HB 2397—Providing health care to rural Oregonians

Helps bring more primary care doctors to rural Oregon by setting up a loan forgiveness program for primary care practitioners through the Office of Rural Health and creating the Primary Health Care Loan Forgiveness Program Fund.

SB 563—Allowing retired health professionals to help out in a crisis

Expands the pool of Oregonians who can participate in the Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program to include retired individuals who were licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to administer health care services within the last ten years. This will allow areas struck by natural disasters, particularly in rural Oregon, to better respond to medical needs of Oregonians.

SB 695—Protecting our children’s health from toxic BPA *

Bans the sale in Oregon of all baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable water bottles that contain bisphenol-A (BPA), requires the state's Women Infants and Children Program to only offer baby formula with no more than very minimal amounts of BPA, and establishes the Oregon BPA-Free Advisory Group.

SB 376—Prohibiting the sale of suicide kits in Oregon

Creates the crime of aiding another person to commit suicide, punishable as a Class B felony, if the person knowingly sells or transfers objects, including so-called "suicide kits" to someone for the purpose of committing suicide. Establishes exceptions related to advanced directives, court orders, and withdrawing life support subject to certain conditions.

SB 479—Expanding outreach for organ donation

Requires applications for driver licenses to contain information about whether the applicant wants to make an anatomical gift.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 5529—Protecting the Oregon Health Plan

Protects coverage of the 60,000 low-income Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and reduces proposed cuts to hospitals and other health care providers under OHP from 19 to 11.5 percent by modifying the current hospital provider tax.

SB 5529—Providing health care for our children

Helps to ensure health care access for children by using \$10 million of excess insurer's tax revenue to eliminate rate reductions for primary care providers.

HB 3110—Providing quality drug and alcohol treatment

Permanently establishes the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, which is charged with producing a plan for the funding and effective delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services in Oregon. The bill also establishes a Governor-appointed Director of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to assist in carrying out the responsibilities of the Commission.

SB 973—Giving freedom to the vision impaired

Allows people with limited vision who use a biopic lens device to operate motor vehicles at night; licensure is contingent on passing a test to demonstrate the ability to operate motor vehicle and examination by vision specialist.

HB 2312—Allowing charitable organizations to help people get eyeglasses and hearing aids

Gives some charitable organizations immunity from liability when they distribute used eyeglasses or hearing aids to those in need, helping low-income people in Oregon access vision and hearing aides.

HB 5518—Cracking down on Medicaid fraud

Increases support to the Medicaid Fraud Unit. This program investigates and prosecutes individuals who commit fraud or abuse of the program and its clients. Stopping this fraud is important to protecting tax dollars and making sure vulnerable patients aren't being taken advantage of.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Quality Health Care & Public Health *(continued)*

SB 5529—Helping Oregon’s rural hospitals

Eliminates the rate reduction for Type A and B hospitals that was included in the Governor’s proposed budget. These hospitals, which are small and located in remote areas miles from any other hospital, provide essential emergency and other health services for rural communities.

SB 5529—Providing quality drug addiction care

Helps Oregonians who are struggling with addiction by maintaining funding for addiction services at 2009-11 levels.

SB 5529—Protecting emergency care services for kids, rural Oregon

Improves emergency medical care to victims of sudden illness or traumatic injury by restoring most of the cuts to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program proposed in the governor’s budget. Two of the programs that will be restored are EMS for Children, which seeks to improve pediatric emergency care, and the mobile training unit, which keeps rural volunteer emergency response agencies operational by providing continuing education mandatory for emergency responders.

SB 5508—Caring for the traumatically injured

Restored funding to the Oregon Trauma System to ensure that high quality community resources are available when people are traumatically injured.

HB 5529—Protecting kids with school based health care

Helps keep kids healthy, in school, and ready to learn by maintaining the 2009-11 spending level for School Based Health Centers, which provide quality primary and mental health services in schools where kids spend their days.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Women's Health

SB 433—Covering breast and cervical cancer treatment for low-income women
Expands eligibility of low-income women for the treatment of breast and cervical cancer if they are diagnosed through a health care provider outside of the Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Currently, a loophole means many women can't get access to life-saving treatment.

HB 3616—Covering partial mastectomies for breast cancer survivors
Closes a loophole that allows insurers to deny coverage for certain breast reconstruction procedures for cancer survivors.

SB 493—Ensuring high standards in breast exams
Establishes a nine-member Task Force on Oregon Curriculum and Training Standards for Performing Clinical Breast Examinations charged with investigating ways to increase early detection of breast cancer in Oregon women.

HB 2908—Protecting womens' rights to consent to pelvic exams
Prohibits pelvic examinations on an anesthetized or unconscious woman unless the exam is medically necessary, consent is given, or a court orders the examination.

HB 3311—Helping low-income women during child birth, promoting doulas
Directs the Oregon Health Authority to explore options for, and report to the Legislature about ways to improve birth outcomes for low-income women, including promoting the use of doulas.

HB 2235—Raising awareness about maternal mental health concerns
Provides materials to build awareness and understanding among health care providers about mental health problems among new mothers. Nearly one in four new mothers in Oregon report symptoms of depression during or after their pregnancy.

SB 348—Raising awareness about Lupus
Raises awareness and educates people about Lupus, an autoimmune disease, by designating May of each year “Lupus Awareness Month.”

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Senate Democrats 2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Women's Health (*continued*)

SB 557—Protecting victims of sexual assault

Ensures that Oregon communities are equipped to meet the challenge of effectively responding to sexual assault by requiring each county's district attorney to organize a sexual assault response team (SART). The bill requires the SART to adopt protocols for addressing sexual assault response and requires some health care facilities to implement policies for treating acute sexual assault patients.

HB 2244—Protecting the privacy of domestic violence survivors

Amends the definition of “public record” in Oregon statute and specifies that records maintained by providers of domestic violence services, as well as resource centers and shelters operated by or in partnership with a public entity, are not subject to disclosure of public records. This will protect victims of domestic violence by preventing abusers from using the public records system to track their victims.

HB 2940—Elevating crime of strangulation

Appropriately aligns punishment with the severity of the crime of strangulation by increasing the penalty, making the crime a Class C felony subject to a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$125,000 crime.

SB 5529—Family planning services for Oregon women

Partially restores 2009-11 allotment reductions and the Governor's cuts in the CCare program, which provides family planning services for Oregon women and their families.

SB 5529—Healthy and local food for mothers and seniors

Helps low income families and seniors access nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables and supports local farmers by restoring cuts in the Women Infant and Children (WIC) Farmer's Market program and the Senior Farmer's Market Program.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Protecting our Kids

SB 803—Closing loophole on child pornography, setting absolute ban on viewing

Clarifies current law and establishes that viewing child pornography on the internet is a crime in Oregon punishable by up to five years in prison.

HB 2463—Expanding the mandatory reporting of child porn

Requires that if a computer technician or processor of photographic images observes an image of a child involved in sexually explicit activity, he or she is required to report it to the authorities., and makes failure to do so a Class A misdemeanor.

SB 425—Cracking down on child sex traffickers, closes loophole

Creates harsher punishments for pimps who facilitate the prostitution of a minor by removing the defense that a pimp was unaware of a minor's age.

HB 2714—Cracking down on “johns,” helping young sex trafficking victims

Provides more protection to young sex trafficking victims by increasing the fine for paying for sex with a minor from \$6,250 to \$20,000 and separates the crime of soliciting prostitution from the crime of offering prostitution .

SB 898—Making sure minors are kept from working in adult establishments

Senate Bill 898 authorizes the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to request proof that an individual working at a strip club meets the minimum age requirements. This provides another set of eyes to identify underage workers and individuals who might be targets of sex traffickers.

SB 240—Protecting children from dangers of cyber bullying *

Defines “cyber bullying” and directs school districts to come up with specific policies to deal with the issue. SB 240 also requires school employees to act as mandatory reporters of harassment, including cyber bullying, and allows a student to report bullying anonymously to a mandatory reporter.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Protecting our Kids (*continued*)

SB 964—Protecting kids in foster care, helping keep families together

Reforms Oregon's foster care system to provide services and support to help keep families together when appropriate, avoid a child's placement in foster care, and ensure safety and stability if a child returns home.

HB 3260—Helping homeless and runaway youth

Ensures planning and coordination of services for homeless and runaway children and teens by transferring responsibility for these duties to the Department of Human Services.

HB 3433—Protecting young adults from abuse

Allows a person eighteen years or older, who was under a Family Abuse Prevention Act Protective Order when under the age of eighteen, to seek a renewal of that order if the person reasonably fears abuse.

HB 3102—Helping abused and neglected kids

Helps to ensure that Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs can continue to serve Oregon communities by establishing a task force charged with studying and making recommendations about the structure and operation of the program. Local CASA programs engage volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected kids who are under the protection of the court.

HB 2272—Giving CASA Advocates access to more information to help their clients

Gives Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) the power to consult with, as well as inspect and copy, the records of a child under court protection for abuse or neglect that are in the possession of any agency, hospital, school organization, doctor, nurse, psychologist, psychiatrist, police department or mental health clinic.

HB 3471—Helping foster kids transition to college

Grants college tuition waivers to current or former children in the Oregon foster care system. HB 3471 covers the family portion of a student's financial aid contribution, after accounting for most grants, federal aid, and the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Participating students will need to complete 30 hours of community service each year.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Protecting our Kids (*continued*)

HB 3584—Taking care of minority children in the foster care system

Helps care for all children in the foster care system by directing the Department of Human Services to provide training regarding appropriate ethnic hair aesthetic care for children of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American or multiracial descent to child-caring agencies and foster parents.

SB 514—Guaranteeing access to health insurance for sick kids

Ensures that children with high-risk medical conditions can get health insurance year round and can stay on the same insurance plan as their parents.

SB 101—Dental care for kids

Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to provide dental wraparound or dental premium coverage to underinsured or uninsured children enrolled in certain insurance programs provided by the state, bringing Oregon into compliance with federal requirements and ensuring that kids have access to the dental care they need to be healthy.

HB 5030—Community-based care for our kids

Directs the Department of Human Services to refine a plan to invest in a new, community-based model for child welfare that will both ensure kids are safe and save resources in the long term. Based on the plan brought forward by DHS, the Legislature's Emergency Board can approve \$5 million to begin to implement this model.

HB 5529—Protecting kids with school based health care

Helps keep kids healthier, in school, and ready to learn by maintaining the 2009-11 spending level for School Based Health Centers, which provide quality primary and mental health services in schools where kids spend their days.

SB 695—Protecting our children's health from toxic BPA *

Bans the sale in Oregon of all baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable water bottles that contain bisphenol-A (BPA), requires the state's Women Infants and Children Program to only offer baby formula with no more than very minimal amounts of BPA, and establishes the Oregon BPA-Free Advisory Group.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Protecting our Kids (*continued*)

HB 2939—Prohibiting the use of restraints on children

Offers protections for students in Oregon schools or youth services so that they are not physically or emotionally harmed by the inappropriate use of restraint or seclusion. House Bill 2939 prohibits use of mechanical, chemical and prone restraint in public education programs. Additionally, it defines when specified physical restraint and seclusion may be used in public education programs and outlines the reports required after the use of physical restraint or seclusion.

SB 43—Accounting for child support payments

Helps address collecting child support payments by clarifying the amount of disposable monthly income an individual should be left with once the amount withheld for payment of child support is deducted. SB 43 removes the cap that limits the amount that can be withheld each month, based on the applicable federal minimum wage standard.

SB 45—Streamlining process for child support hearings

Supports efficiencies in Oregon's child support system by standardizing at 30 days the amount of time allowed to request a hearing in child support proceedings, removing the presumption of inability to pay child support for those receiving foster care payments, and simplifying the application form required of people seeking some types of child support enforcement assistance.

HB 2721—Eliminating the faith healing defense for parents

Eliminates reliance on spiritual treatment as a defense to certain crimes in which the victim is under 18 years of age.

SB 67—Providing accessible information to the public about predatory sex offenders *

Allows Department of State Police to publish specified information about predatory, sexually-violent offenders on its website by city, zip code or county.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety

HB 2244—Protecting the privacy of domestic violence survivors

Amends the definition of “public record” in Oregon statute and specifies that records maintained by providers of domestic violence services, as well as resource centers and shelters operated by or in partnership with a public entity, are not subject to disclosure of public records to prevent abusers from using the public records system to track their victims.

HB 5518—Protecting pregnant women from domestic violence

Authorizes the use of Federal Funds for the Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy grant to provide services to victims, promote victim’s rights, and provide victims with information and resources.

SB 616—Protecting pets and helping victims with changes to Family Abuse Prevention law

Allows judges to include pets under domestic violence restraining orders. Twelve independent studies have reported that between 18 percent and 48 percent of battered women delay leaving abusive situations out of fear for the safety of their animals.

HB 5518—Prevented devastating cuts to domestic violence services

Added back \$3 million to the Crime Victim’s Services Division for the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Abuse Victims program and the Crime Victims’ program. This amounts to a 10 percent reduction. Much more severe cuts (25 percent) were originally proposed.

HB 2940—Elevating crime of strangulation

Appropriately aligns punishment with the severity of the crime of strangulation by increasing the penalty, making the crime a Class C felony subject to a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$125,000 crime.

HB 3066—Compensating crime victims acceptably

Requires the Department of Justice to establish a restitution collection pilot program to help crime victims collect what is due to them.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety (*continued*)

HB 5518—Expediting the compensation of crime victims

Supplements funding to increase staff in the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. This will help the state process crime victims claims with less delay.

HB 5518—Investigating reports of child pornography and sexual predation

Supplemented the loss of federal funds in order to support the Internet Crimes Against Children program. Additionally, the Legislature authorized the continuation of two federally-funded programs to investigate child pornography and extended a program to identify, investigate, and prosecute suspects who target children on the internet.

SB 425—Cracking down on child sex traffickers, closes loophole

Creates harsher punishments for pimps who facilitate the prostitution of a minor by removing the defense that a pimp was unaware of their age

HB 2714—Cracking down on “johns,” helping young sex trafficking victims

Provides more protection to young sex trafficking victims by increasing the fine for paying for sex with a minor from \$6,250 to \$20,000 and separates the crime of soliciting prostitution from the crime of offering prostitution.

SB 504—Cracking down on drunk drivers *

Extends the suspension of driving privileges beyond the end of a suspension period if a person fails to submit proof of installation of a required ignition interlock device.

HB 3075 & HB 2104—Setting stiff fees for drinking and driving

Increases the penalty for drunk driving by requiring the installation of ignition interlock devices as a condition for entering into a diversion program and increasing the fees paid from \$130 to \$230. HB 2104 also raises the fees for filing for the diversion agreement from \$261 to \$361. These fees will be dedicated to the Intoxicated Driver Program Fund to support indigent DUII treatment, interpreter services, and the ignition interlock program

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety *(continued)*

SB 395—Saving tax dollars with technical changes to Measure 73

Implementing voter approved Measure 73 to crack down on repeat drunk driving offenders, while making adjustments that allow offenders to serve in country jails rather than state correctional facilities, and saving \$5.3 million in General Fund expenditures.

HB 3309—Preventing recidivism by providing job services

Authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish an on-the-job training program for offenders released back into the community from DOC who need training to secure jobs or retain employment.

SB 5505 – Preparing prisoners for re-entry to their communities, reducing recidivism

Requires the Department of Corrections to explore the design and implementation of a re-entry services pilot project with a county or counties to provide evidence-based treatment and employment preparation for inmates scheduled for release.

SB 5505 – Rehabilitation for released offenders, reducing recidivism

Prevents cuts for drug and alcohol treatment, workforce development, and cognitive programs in the Transitional Services Division of the Department of Corrections to assist offenders making the transition into society after serving their time.

HB 5518—Helping offenders become productive members of society

Provided \$300,000 in General Funds to Project Clean Slate, a Portland-area program designed to improve workforce skills of past offenders and reduce legal impediments to employment, particularly for minorities and in underserved communities.

HB 3110—Providing quality drug and alcohol treatment

Permanently establishes the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, which is charged with producing a plan for the funding and effective delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services in Oregon. The bill also establishes a Governor-appointed Director of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to assist in carrying out the responsibilities of the Commission.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety *(continued)*

SB 5507—Protecting drug court programs to reduce crime

Added back \$400,000 for critical drug court programs, maintaining 09-11 funding levels, and helping to reduce repeat offenses, lessen the burden on the public safety system, and keep Oregon safe.

SB 764—Addressing alcohol-related problem areas *

Allows cities with populations over 50,000 to apply to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) to designate “alcohol impact areas” within city limits. Senate Bill 764 would allow cities to apply for an additional tool to reduce serious and persistent problems within a designated alcohol impact area, including disturbances, lewd or unlawful activities, prohibited public drinking, public intoxication or noise.

SB 36—Cracking down on problem bars

Gives the Oregon Liquor Control Commission broader authority to deny an applicant a liquor license by allowing the agency to consider an applicant’s convictions for violating any law in Oregon or any other state, not just violations of liquor laws.

HB 3273—Respecting the privacy of family members who have lost a loved one in the line of duty

Allows a household member of an officer killed in the line of duty to continue to keep their address confidential to prevent unwanted attention while they grieve.

SB 976—Establishing the “Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice”

Honoring the memory of law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty by establishing the "Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice" for surviving family members.

HB 3039—Honoring fallen police officers

Memorializes deceased public safety officers on highways by creating a Roadside Memorial Fund to pay for installation and maintenance of the roadside memorial signs.

HB 3125—Protecting dangerous convicts from possessing guns

Requires an applicant for a hunting license that involves firearms to include a statement that the applicant has not been convicted or found guilty of a felony except by insanity.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety *(continued)*

SB 5537 – Protecting the state’s background check capabilities for gun purchasers

Increases funding for the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, which administers the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) and provides critical information and services relating to background checks including for firearms. This bill also specifically authorizes acceptance of federal National Instant Background System Act grant funds, helping improve Oregon’s ability to ensure that guns aren’t being sold to felons and that individuals with mental health issues who aren’t legally allowed to purchase guns.

HB 5518—Cracking down on Medicaid fraud

Increases support to the Medicaid Fraud Unit. This program investigates and prosecutes individuals who commit fraud or abuse of the program and its clients. Stopping this fraud is important for protecting tax dollars and making sure vulnerable patients aren’t taken advantage of.

SB 376—Prohibiting the sale of suicide kits in Oregon

Creates the crime of aiding another person to commit suicide, punishable as a Class B felony, if the person knowingly sells or transfers objects including so-called "suicide kits" to someone for the purpose of committing suicide. Establishes exceptions related to advanced directives, court orders, and withdrawing life support subject to certain conditions.

HB 5508—Addressing gang violence in the Portland metro region

Provided funding for East Multnomah gang intervention services. This important program brings together public safety offices from across the region to provide support services to at-risk youth and better track and prevent gang violence.

SB 412—Public safety in Oregon's tribal areas

Recognizes authorized tribal officers and "peace officers" and "police officers" under state law. Grants tribal officers limited authority off reservations, including the power to continue pursuing suspects who leave tribal land and to take action when a crime is committed in front of them, and grants them the same power as state authorized police officers after two years.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Public Safety *(continued)*

SB 405—Public safety at Oregon's public universities

Allows the State Board of Higher Education to authorize an Oregon state university to establish a police department.

SB 973—Giving freedom to the vision impaired

Allows people with limited vision who use a biopic lens device to operate a motor vehicle at night. Licensure is contingent on passing a test to demonstrate the ability to operate motor vehicle and examination by vision specialist.

SB 5537 – Modernizing the Oregon State Patrol fleet

Authorizes the use of federal funds to install mobile data terminals in approximately 100 patrol vehicles, helping modernize the fleet.

SB 5537 – Protecting the state's investigative abilities

Increases funding for Criminal Investigation Division by four percent to investigate major crimes and drug related crimes, pursuit and apprehension of criminal offenders, and the gathering of evidence.

SB 846—Setting safety standards for bike trailers for kids *

Requires manufacturers to affix stickers on all bicycle trailers designed to carry children that informs a purchaser of conformity or nonconformity to safety standards.

SB 424—Protecting pedestrians' rights

Modifies the offense of failure to stop for a pedestrian by clarifying that a pedestrian is crossing a roadway when any part or extension of a pedestrian's body moves onto the roadway with the intent to proceed.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families

SB 637 & SB 638—Helping unemployed Oregonians make ends meet

Provides unemployment benefit extensions through the federal Extended Benefits Program and Oregon's Emergency Benefits Program, helping 25,000 eligible Oregonians who continue to struggle finding work.

HB 5030 & HB 5055—Child care help for working families

Allows low income working parents to stay in the workforce by funding Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) at an average of 1,000 cases a month, serving a total of 9,000 clients over the biennium. Additional funds in HB 5055 allow the Legislature's Emergency Board to add up to 1,000 cases per month later in the biennium.

HB 5030 & HB 5508—Extending a lifeline for struggling families

Gives Oregonians who are very low income the time needed to get back on their feet by maintaining the current 60-month time limit in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and continuing, for at least the first year of the biennium, to provide Post-TANF payments for families transitioning from TANF to employment.

HB 2039—Ensuring employees get paid

Gives employees an option to receive what is owed to them if they end up incurring fees and fines because a paycheck bounces. HB 2039 allows the Bureau of Labor and Industries to assess civil penalties payable to the employee without that employee having to file a separate lawsuit.

SB 491—Protecting tenants when landlords enter foreclosure

Protects tenants if the property they rent goes into foreclosure by clarifying inconsistencies in current law and modifying the notice of foreclosure process.

SB 293—Protecting the rights of tenants in crisis

Protects Oregonians who rent their homes by, among other provisions, requiring landlords to release immediate family members from a rental agreement if a tenant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families (*continued*)

SB 827—Improving loan modification process for struggling homeowners *

Clarifies and streamlines the state's foreclosure laws. Senate Bill 827 would ensure that homeowners facing foreclosure receive timely, standardized information about how to request a loan modification and gives them recourse if there is a violation.

SB 863—Helping low income Oregonians keep the lights on

Helps struggling families with their electricity bill by requiring Oregon's electric utilities to collect an additional \$5 million dollars per year from residential consumers through a small surcharge. These funds will provide low-income electric bill payment assistance if two of four negative economic indicators are met.

SB 292—Reining in allegedly “risk-free” trial offers

Prevents vendors from imposing cumbersome financial obligations on consumers who sign up for “free trial offers.” Senate Bill 292 outlines the disclosure and billing requirements for such offers and requires a consumer's affirmative consent to the terms of a free offer.

SB 487—Prohibiting misleading and costly automatic contract renewals

Gives consumers greater protection from getting trapped in cyclical automatic renewal agreements that can become expensive and burdensome. SB 487 requires offers involving the automatic renewal of a product subscription to include a clear explanation that the order will automatically renew unless the customer notifies the business to stop.

HB 3037—Providing critical services to Oregon's seniors

Clarifies the services that eligible seniors can receive through Oregon Project Independence. This state program serves individuals over 60 who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or another related disorder and are under the federal poverty level but do not qualify for Medicaid.

HB 5030 & HB 5508—Protecting Oregon Project Independence

Allows seniors to stay in their own homes and saves money in the long run by partially restoring funding to Oregon Project Independence, bringing program funding to \$9.5 million General Fund for the biennium.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families (*continued*)

HB 2543—Modifies property tax deferral program to help low-income seniors

The senior and disabled property tax deferral program gives low-income individuals the opportunity to defer property tax payments, helping them stay in their homes. HB 2543 includes safeguards and additional requirement, such as requiring the participants to recertify their income every two years rather than only upon entering the program. These changes will maintain the programs solvency and keep it available to those most in need by removing additional participants who no longer qualify and streamlining the selection process.

HB 5030—Protecting our most vulnerable

Preserves nearly flat funding for services to seniors and people with disabilities, including Medicaid in-home care service hours.

HB 5030—Supporting families of domestic violence

Helps address one of the root causes of child abuse and neglect by investing new resources to add specialists to work with families who are victims of domestic violence.

HB 5030—Supporting families of children with developmental disabilities

Allocates funds to create a Family to Family Network to help support families of children with developmental disabilities. The network will develop local, family-led initiatives and train families to provide peer and other types of support.

HB 5030—Community-based care for our kids

Directs the Department of Human Services to refine a plan to invest in a new, community-based model for child welfare that will both ensure kids are safe and save resources in the long term. Based on the plan brought forward by DHS, the Legislature's Emergency Board can approve \$5 million to begin to implement this model.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families (*continued*)

SB 99—Helping small business with a health insurance exchange

Creates the Oregon Health Care Exchange, a health care marketplace that will provide 350,000 Oregonians with access to affordable, quality health care. The exchange will help more small businesses offer and provide affordable health care plans to their employees.

HB 3650—Landmark overhaul of health care delivery

Creates a new approach to health care, improving the way Oregon serves the state's 600,000 Medicaid beneficiaries while also cutting costs. By setting up "coordinated care organizations" that serve defined geographic areas, low income and elderly patients will benefit from integrated, comprehensive care that covers primary and mental health care, addiction services, and oral health care.

SB 514—Guaranteeing access to health insurance for sick kids

Ensures that children with high-risk medical conditions can get health insurance year round and can stay on the same insurance plan as their parents.

HB 2366—Increasing access to primary care

Addresses the shortage of primary health care in some Oregon communities by directing the Oregon Health Authority to develop a strategic plan for recruiting primary care providers to Oregon.

SB 738—Expanding dental care to underserved communities

Expands access to dental services for underserved populations, such as low-income or rural Oregonians, by allowing qualified dental hygienists to provide essential dental hygiene services and creating a process for setting up pilot projects that will help expand access to dental care.

HB 3311—Helping low-income women during child birth, promoting doulas

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to explore options for, and report to the Legislature about ways to improve birth outcomes for low-income women, including promoting the use of doulas.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families *(continued)*

HB 2235—Raising awareness about maternal mental health concerns

Provides materials to build awareness and understanding among health care providers about mental health problems among new mothers. Nearly one in four new mothers in Oregon report symptoms of depression during or after their pregnancy.

SB 480—Providing nutritious meals to low-income children

Helps more Oregon schools, agencies, and community groups participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Afterschool Meal and Snack Program, by establishing a grant program, making sure more low-income kids don't have to go home hungry.

SB 453—Classroom dollars for rural schools

SB 453 will help Oregon's smaller, rural schools qualify for the funds they need to provide a quality education. This bill drives resources to twenty-two small elementary schools around the state.

SB 301—Tax relief to businesses, students and parents

"Reconnects" the Oregon tax code to key provisions in federal tax code, including provisions that allow college students to deduct tuition expenses.

HB 2728—Helping families save for college

Helps Oregon families save for their child's college education by allowing taxpayers to make direct deposit contributions of personal income tax refunds into an Oregon 529 College Savings Network account.

HB 3106—Helping at-risk kids make the transition to college

Requires school districts to give priority for participation in Expanded Options Program to eligible at-risk students. The Expanded Options program helps kids transition into post-secondary education by creating opportunities to earn college credits and take courses at college campuses while still in high school.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Helping Oregon Families *(continued)*

SB 612—Preventing wage theft *

Requires construction labor contractors to be licensed by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, giving greater protection to workers who are at risk of not getting their full compensation.

SB 506—Adding bereavement to Oregon Family Leave Act *

Adds the death of a family member as a reasonable use of leave under the Oregon Family Leave Act.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Veterans

SB 241—Encouraging outreach to veterans

Helps more veterans take advantage of the programs available to assist them while more equally sharing the costs between the state and federal government.

SB 276—Better care for soldiers

Encourages better partnerships between experts in the US military and outside health care professionals regarding military sexual trauma, post traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions associated with military service.

HB 2403—Improving veteran reintegration throughout state agencies

Requires the state agencies veterans use most often to work with the Oregon Military Department to help Oregon veterans reintegrate in their communities.

HB 3500—Helping Oregon veterans reintegrate

Helps ensure Oregon's veterans have the support they need when they return from duty by directing the Oregon Military Department to find ways to encourage veterans to accept reintegration assistance.

HB 3391—Supporting our military families

Helps to ensure that Oregon's military families have the support they need by establishing a nine-member Task Force on Military Families charged with educating the public about the needs of military families and identifying resources throughout the state to assist these families.

HB 3074—Making sure our soldiers have access to voting overseas

Helps soldiers voting overseas and other long term absentee voters cast their ballots by authorizing voting by email; these voters are already allowed to submit their ballots by fax machine.

HB 3208—Community care and our aging veterans

Allows for the development of two additional veterans' homes and requires the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to study the current and future need for skilled nursing beds, including ways veterans could receive care through community-based systems.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Veterans (*continued*)

HB 3658—Honoring veterans who make the ultimate sacrifice

Establishes a medal to honor Oregon military members who have fallen in the line of duty.

HB 2919—Hiring incentives for Oregon veterans

Adds veterans to the types of employees that a business can hire to qualify for a grant through the Building Opportunities for Oregon Small Business Today (BOOST) program.

HB 3611—Better statistics on veterans who take their own life

Requires a person who submits a death certificate that was caused by suicide to make a reasonable effort to ascertain and to notify Center for Health Statistics whether the decedent was veteran, whether decedent served in combat and where he or she may have served in combat. This will help the US Department of Veterans Affairs better track the real numbers of veterans suicides across the country.

HB 2578—Building a new veterans home

Authorizes the state Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish a third Oregon Veterans' Home in Roseburg, Oregon.

HJM 15—Supporting our veterans

Urges Congress to enact legislation supporting community-based, long term care for veterans.

HJM 18—Supporting our veterans and their health care

Urges Congress to change funding of veterans' health care from a discretionary entitlement to a permanent and direct entitlement.

HJM 8—Supporting our veterans and diversity

Urges Congress to require the Armed Forces of the United States to examine cultural barriers in the military and report to Congress with proposed solutions.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Veterans *(continued)*

HB 5508—Helping veterans easily access services and crisis help

Maintained funding for the Military HelpLine for veterans until the Oregon Military Department secures federal funding for the service. The Military Helpline assists veterans in gaining access to the resources they deserve along with anonymous, confidential crisis intervention and sensitivity to military-specific issues.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Consumer Protection

SB 292—Reining in allegedly “risk-free” trial offers

Prevents vendors from imposing cumbersome financial obligations on consumers who sign up for “free trial offers.” Senate Bill 292 outlines the disclosure and billing requirements for such offers and requires a consumer’s affirmative consent to the terms of a free offer.

SB 487—Prohibiting misleading and costly automatic contract renewals

Gives consumers greater protection from getting trapped in cyclical automatic renewal agreements that can become expensive and burdensome. SB 487 requires offers involving the automatic renewal of a product subscription to include a clear explanation that the order will automatically renew unless the customer notifies the business to stop.

SB 756—Allowing gift card users to get cash back on small balances

Allows Oregonians to redeem gift card balances of \$5 or less for cash provided the card has been used for at least one purchase. Senate Bill 756 ensures consumers have a choice when left with a small balance on a gift card and that they aren’t forced to spend more than they intended.

SB 88—Protecting the chronically ill or disabled with long term care policies

Establishes consumer protection provisions for long term care policy holders by requiring the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt rules for both prompt payment requirements and internal and external review procedures. Currently, these insurance policies are not subject to many of Oregon’s consumer protection regulations and receive many complaints.

SB 926—Protect Oregonians’ basic living needs when wages are garnished

Aligns Oregon’s garnishment practices with federal policy to provide greater protection to Oregonians so they can meet their basic needs. Senate Bill 926 will increase the amount that is protected when wages are garnished to collect a debt. Protected income includes social security, veterans’ benefits, unemployment insurance, and other types of benefits meant to cover the most basic living expenses.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Consumer Protection *(continued)*

SB 718—Empowering consumers with rate review requirements, shining a light on rate hikes *

Requires health insurers to alert policy holders when rates increase under certain conditions and also requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to post online detailed explanations of their approval of rate hikes.

SB 92—Protecting Oregon banking consumers

Allows the state's consumer protection department to evaluate out-of-state banks that wish to establish a branch in Oregon.

HB 3411—Protecting insurance consumers

Prohibits portable electronics vendors from issuing, selling, or offering insurance coverage without a limited license from the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Fair & Affordable Housing

SB 519—Protecting affordable housing options

Allows affordable housing programs the first opportunity to purchase affordable homes that are in foreclosure, keeping these homes in Oregon's affordable housing stock.

HB 2354—Ensuring access to affordable housing

Helps local communities continue to provide housing for low income residents by extending the sunset on the property tax exemption for nonprofits that own or lease rental housing for residents who earn 60 percent of median income or less.

SB 485—Preventing fraudulent real estate dealings

Allows Real Estate Agency to issue cease and desist order and maintain action for injunction against person who engages in, or is about to engage in, professional real estate activity without license.

SB 491—Protecting tenants when landlords enter foreclosure

Protects tenants if the property they rent goes into foreclosure by clarifying inconsistencies in current law and modifying the notice of foreclosure process.

SB 827—Improving loan modification process for struggling homeowners *

Clarifies and streamlines the state's foreclosure laws. Senate Bill 827 ensures that homeowners facing foreclosure receive timely, standardized information about how to request a loan modification and gives them recourse if there is a violation.

SB 293—Protecting the rights of tenants in crisis

Protects Oregonians who rent their homes by, among other provisions, requiring landlords to release immediate family members from a rental agreement if a tenant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

HB 2084—Making sure homeowner's voices are heard

Allows the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to appoint an advisory committee that represents people likely to be affected by changes to mortgage lending rules.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Fair & Affordable Housing

HB 3015—Protecting Oregon homeowners

Helped support effective oversight of the mortgage lending industry to protect Oregonians looking to buy or sell their homes by restoring funding for the mortgage lending program to 2009-11 levels.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources

HB 3145—21st century bottle bill update

Updates Oregon's 40-year-old bottle bill law by significantly expanding the types of containers subject to the five cent deposit, setting a threshold for increasing the deposit to ten cents, and initiates a major redemption pilot project.

HB 2960—"Cool Schools" creating jobs, saving money

Promotes energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades at Oregon schools, saving valuable education dollars that would otherwise go to utility bills, and creating jobs in communities across Oregon.

SB 82—Expanding Oregon's E-Cycling Program

Builds on legislation passed in 2007 to create a statewide collection, transportation, and recycling system for the recycling of electronic waste. SB 82 adds printers and computer peripherals, like keyboards and mice, to the recyclable products.

SB 862—Setting the stage for more Oregon forest jobs, helping rural areas

Advances the development of woody biomass opportunities in Oregon by providing direction to the Oregon Department of Forestry and requiring them to conduct an inventory of potential resources across the state. The expansion of biomass has the potential to create jobs in Oregon forests, reduce the risk of forest fires, and provide a clean and renewable energy source.

SB 945—Reducing toxins in waterways and landfills *

Protects our health and ecosystems by limiting toxins on roadways, in waterways, and landfills. Senate Bill 945 makes waterways safer by phasing out the sale of brake pads made using copper and other harmful chemicals.

SB 57—Expanding clean energy and technology projects

Authorizes the Oregon Business Development Commission to use revenue bonds to finance projects for electric energy generation, transmission, sale or distribution.

*** Did not pass in the House**

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources *(continued)*

SB 695—Protecting our children's health from toxic BPA *

Bans the sale in Oregon of all baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable water bottles that contain bisphenol-A (BPA), requires the state's Women Infants and Children Program to only offer baby formula with no more than very minimal amounts of BPA, and establishes the Oregon BPA-Free Advisory Group.

SB 586—Diversifying green energy requirements *

Modifies current requirements that contracts for the construction or major renovation of public buildings dedicate 1.5 percent of the contract price specifically to solar energy technology to allow the 1.5 percent to be dedicated to any green energy technology.

SB 192—Creating jobs in our forests *

Requires State Workforce Investment Board to include in its plan for green job growth an analysis of jobs in the forest products industry. SB 192 will help determine key growth factors, employment projections, and key workforce development needs to put people to work in Oregon's forests

HB 2872—Supporting Oregon's small poultry farms

Exempts from license requirements small farms that slaughter less than 1,000 poultry per year for human consumption, helping smaller poultry farms compete. HB 2872 enforces strict food safety requirements by requiring chickens to be free from disease, raised from two weeks of age, and slaughtered in facility owned by a person who meets state requirements.

HB 3225—Fostering the development of brownfields

Provides landowners with greater certainty and protection against unforeseen legal issues when developing neglected lands like brown fields. This will help encourage the development of these lands, creating high value job opportunities within Oregon's cities.

HB 2081—Preventing air pollution

Sets statewide rules prohibiting trucks and other commercial vehicles from idling their engines in front of schools and other places.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources (*continued*)

HB 2159—Supporting Oregon's grass seed farmers

Helps improve the process of moving grass seeds from crop to market, setting industry standards that benefit seed producers, growers, and distributors.

HB 2748—Encouraging wave energy off of Oregon's coast

Supports homegrown energy by allowing additional wave energy projects off the Oregon coast.

HB 3538—Adopting statewide standards for Carbon Equivalent Offsets

Allows Oregon utilities to offset CO₂ emissions through "carbon equivalent" emissions reduction strategies throughout the state. Creates additional flexibility for utilities and increased investment in projects such as dairy digesters, waste-water treatment, organic waste digestion projects, and improved nutrient management techniques on farms, while achieving the same level of environmental benefit.

HB 3157—Stopping the spread of invasive species in Oregon's rivers

Extends the Oregon Adopt-A-River program to include removal of certain invasive species as identified by State Marine Board and requires the Board to provide volunteer groups with instructions for removal of invasive species and best management practices for disposal and equipment decontamination.

SB 626—Fresh waters for anglers, tourism, and the environment

Complements goals for recreational fisheries management through the Quality Fresh Waters Program. This Program includes fish management practices, fish research projects, the protection and restoration of fish habitats, and enforcement efforts.

SB 806—Allowing natural landscaping to save water, time, and money

Allows landowners or occupants to use native plants and drought-tolerant plants, also called xeriscaping, on their property if the landscape is not needed to comply with local government ordinances related to storm water, natural habitat, or the control of an invasive species. Xeriscaping saves water, as well as time and money, that would otherwise go to lawn maintenance.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources *(continued)*

HB 3399—Getting tough on invasive species

Seeks to protect Oregon's waters from invasive species by authorizing the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Marine Board and the State Department of Agriculture to require people to submit their recreational or commercial watercrafts to inspection and decontamination.

HB 2439—Taking a hard stance on poaching

Increases the damages for the unlawful taking or killing of certain game mammals, thereby allowing such poaching to be prosecuted as a Class C felony.

HB 3255—Protecting Oregon salmon from aggressive sea lions

Addresses the problem of sea lions eating large amounts of salmon at Willamette Falls by requiring the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand its hazing program from five to seven days per week.

HB 3560—Protecting the value of livestock

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program to help ranchers who have lost livestock to wolves.

HB 3636—Controlling predatory animals

Requires applications for State Fish and Wildlife Commission licenses, tags, and permits to have a separate section where applicants can make voluntary contributions to be used for predatory animal control to the extent allowed under federal and state law.

HB 2134—Helping Eastern Oregonians access water

Allows a person applying for or holding a ground water recharge permit within Umatilla Basin to apply for permission to exchange water for an equal amount of water from another source.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources *(continued)*

HB 2122—Supporting our local woodlots and stopping spread of invasive species

Prohibits transporting firewood into or within Oregon and selling firewood in Oregon, unless the firewood has been harvested in Oregon, Idaho or Washington or meets certain standards

HJM 25—Urging Congress to continue county timber payments

This memorial calls on Congress to reauthorize and extend Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. This would allow counties to continue to receive much-needed aid for schools, public safety, and other critical public services.

HB 3358—Addressing the threat of noxious weeds to agriculture in Oregon

Declares noxious weeds a threat to Oregon's economy and requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a grant program to assist county weed control districts. A study of the economic impact of 21 of the 99 listed noxious weeds in Oregon found that they reduce Oregon's income by \$83 million annually.

HB 2947—Supporting local Oregon honey

Requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing standards of identity, quality requirements, and labeling requirements for honey sold in Oregon.

HB 2336—Supporting Oregon's growing farmers' markets

Makes it easier for farmers to sell directly to consumers at farmers' markets by exempting fresh fruits and vegetables, fruit jams and jellies, dried fruits, honey, eggs, and other agricultural products from state laws regulating food establishments.

HB 2868—Supporting food vendors at farmers' markets

Relieves some of the current licensing burden on small temporary restaurants, such as those found at farmers' markets, by establishing a licensing system for three different types of temporary restaurants: intermittent temporary restaurants; seasonal temporary restaurants; and single event temporary restaurants.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Environment & Natural Resources *(continued)*

HB 5049 & HB 5022—Managing Oregon’s water use and needs

Restored funding of the Integrated Water Strategy designed to address the most critical issues facing Oregon’s water. This support for critical groundwater positions and studies that will lead to better resource protection. Also maintained six existing positions in the Department of Environmental Quality’s clean water protection program to protect drinking water supplies.

HB 5525—Continuing the fight against invasive species

Created a new budget structure for funding the Aquatic and Invasive Species program and provides nearly \$2 million to help control waterborne non-native species.

SB 5513—Protecting wildlife habitat

Allocates funding from the Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Agreement to acquire property for wildlife habitat. The state expects to acquire up to 1,070 acres of upland and riparian habitat in southeast Oregon to protect native wildlife.

SB 5513—Protecting and managing Oregon’s coast

Provided funding to implement the Oregon Nearshore Strategy, marine reserves, and other marine spatial planning activities.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Rural Oregon

HJM 25—Urging Congress to continue county timber payments

This memorial calls on Congress to reauthorize and extend Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. This would allow counties to continue to receive much-needed aid for schools, public safety, and other critical public services.

SB 862—Setting the stage for more Oregon forest jobs, helping rural areas

Advances the development of woody biomass opportunities in Oregon by providing direction to the Oregon Department of Forestry and requiring them to conduct an inventory of potential resources across the state. The expansion of biomass has the potential to create jobs in Oregon forests, reduce the risks of forest fires, and provide a clean and renewable energy source.

SB 787—Expanding access to health care services for rural Oregonians

Expands telemedicine services by requiring health benefit plans to cover diabetes-related telemedical health services, allowing individuals and their providers to manage diabetes collaboratively without requiring a visit to their health care provider's office.

SB 563—Allowing retired health professionals to help out in a crisis

Expands the pool of Oregonians who can participate in the Oregon Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program to include retired individuals who were licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to administer health care services within the last ten years. This will allow areas struck by natural disasters, particularly in rural Oregon, to better respond to medical needs of Oregonians.

SB 608—Access to health care in rural Oregon

Improves access to health care in rural communities by renewing the Rural Medical Liability Subsidy Fund, which provides payments to insurers that subsidize the cost of medical malpractice liability insurance premiums for some rural physicians and nurse practitioners.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Rural Oregon (*continued*)

HB 2366—Increasing access to primary care

Addresses the shortage of primary health care in some Oregon communities by directing the Oregon Health Authority to develop a strategic plan for recruiting primary care providers to Oregon.

HB 2397—Providing health care to rural Oregonians

Helps bring more primary care doctors to rural Oregon by setting up a loan forgiveness program for primary care practitioners through the Office of Rural Health and creates the Primary Health Care Loan Forgiveness Program Fund.

SB 738—Expanding dental care to underserved communities

Expands access to dental services for underserved populations, such as low-income or rural Oregonians, by allowing qualified dental hygienists to provide essential dental hygiene services and creating a process for setting up pilot projects that will help expand access to dental care.

SB 453—Classroom dollars for rural schools

SB 453 will help Oregon's smaller, rural schools qualify for the funds they need to provide a quality education. This bill drives resources to twenty-two small elementary schools around the state.

HB 3465—Economic development for rural Oregon

Allows for development of a large-scale guest ranch in Grant County that has the potential to attract tourism and jobs in hard-hit Eastern Oregon.

HB 3560—Protecting the value of livestock

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program to help ranchers who have lost livestock to wolves.

SB 5529—Helping Oregon's rural hospitals

Eliminates the rate reduction for Type A and B hospitals that was included in the Governor's proposed budget. These hospitals, which are small and located in remote areas miles from any other hospital, provide essential emergency and other health services for rural communities.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Rural Oregon *(continued)*

SB 5529—Protecting emergency care services for kids, rural Oregon

Improves emergency medical care to victims of sudden illness or traumatic injury by restoring most of the cuts to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program proposed in the governor's budget. Two of the programs that will be restored are EMS for Children, which seeks to improve pediatric emergency care, and the mobile training unit, which keeps rural volunteer emergency response agencies operational by providing continuing education mandatory for emergency responders.

SB 5508—Caring for the traumatically injured

Restored funding to the Oregon Trauma System to ensure that high quality community resources are available when people are traumatically injured.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Transportation

HB 3596—Authorizing the purchase of the Coos Bay Rail Link

Gives the International Port of Coos Bay final authorization to operate its purchase of the rail line between the South Coast and Eugene. House Bill 3596 allows the Port to own and operate a section of rail closed in 2007 that connects the Danebo station in Lane County to the Coquille station in Coos County, a crucial transportation link for commerce and trade on the South Coast.

HB 3149—Car sharing as alternative transportation

Allows for the expansion of car sharing programs without violating car owners' motor vehicle insurance policy.

HB 3150—Improving safety for bicyclists and pedestrians

Allows cities to reduce neighborhood speed limits by 5 mph, reducing the chance of accidents between pedestrians or cyclists and cars, while encouraging alternative modes of transportation.

SB 264—Better management of our highways

Expedites approval of roads to provide access to state highways from businesses and provides objective standards to govern the approval process. This will save time and resources for Oregon industries dependent on state roads.

SB 5508—Investing in Oregon's infrastructure

Will create much-needed construction jobs by investing \$12.5 million for multimodal transportation projects.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Government Accountability and Efficiency

SB 989 & SB 990—Historic bipartisan redistricting agreement

Fulfills the Legislature's constitutional responsibility every ten years to redraw the boundaries of the 60 House and 30 Senate districts in the Oregon Legislative Assembly and the five Congressional districts to reflect population changes. This is the first time since 1981 that lawmakers have agreed on a Legislative redistricting plan.

HB 3247—"One stop shop" for Oregon business registry

Directs the Secretary of State to create and maintain a "One Stop Shop for Oregon Business" web portal to help businesses start, expand, relocate, or operate in Oregon. Business owners will be able to update, maintain, and track progress on their registration information online through this portal.

HB 2825—Greater transparency on tax credits

Helps to prevent fraud and improve the effectiveness of Oregon's economic development tax credits by requiring information about these credits to be posted on the Oregon Transparency website.

HB 2020—Protecting frontline workers

Helps to protect positions that provide front line services and ensures that state government is providing services as efficiently as possible by requiring agencies to report on the ratio of employees to supervisors, ratio of employees to managers, and the number of non-supervisory managers. The Ways and Means Committee will develop a plan to attain a ratio of employees to supervisors and supervisory managers of eleven to one for each unit or division of an agency with more than 100 employees.

HB 2634—Citizens' Initiative Review Commission

Establishes the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission, which will organize bipartisan panels of Oregon voters to research ballot measures and develop official statements for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Government Accountability and Efficiency

HB 2880—Improving voter access

Improves voter registration in Oregon by increasing coordination among state agencies that register individuals who access services, integrating technology that will make voter registration cost-effective, and ensuring that the state is in compliance with federal requirements.

SB 19—Saving millions through bonding modifications

Saves taxpayers millions of dollars in interest payments by allowing the state to issue General Obligation bonds to finance state building and equipment projects. The voters authorized this change by passing Measure 72 in November 2010.

SB 14—Allowing government to use online merchants to sell surplus goods

Allows the state to sell surplus goods through websites like eBay by giving the State Treasurer the ability to authorize exceptions to deposit requirements for public funds. This is a common sense modernization that will help the state sell off unneeded supplies.

HJR 7—Approving a governance plan in the case of disaster

Amends the Oregon constitution to allow for direct government action in the event of a catastrophic disaster. House Joint Resolution 7 grants the Governor temporary authority to redirect general fund and lottery monies for thirty days following the declaration of disaster, unless the Legislature passes a law specifying the use of funds. Requires voter approval.

HB 2855—Improving government efficiency

Creates the State and Local Government Efficiency Task Force, which will explore ways to continue to make government as effective and cost-efficient as possible.

HB 2856—Better coordination and saving money for social services

Saves resources and reduces administrative burden by directing Department of Human Services to streamline audits, reporting forms, and other redundant requirements.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Government Accountability and Efficiency

SB 909—Setting a comprehensive vision for education at all levels

Establishes the Oregon Education Investment Board. The OEIB will oversee a unified public education system from grades zero to 20. This is a critical step in the effort to eliminate the silos in the current education system and move toward an education model that coordinates the full spectrum of education, from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary.

SB 800—Mandate relief for Oregon schools

Removes outdated, unnecessary or redundant provisions in education statutes related to evaluations, reporting requirements, filings, and preparation and distribution of education laws, policies, and curriculum requirements. Removing these burdensome requirements will allow more time for teaching and learning.

SB 552—Restructuring the Department of Education

Establishes the Governor as the Superintendent of Public Instruction, allowing him or her to appoint a Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction to oversee the management of Oregon's K-12 public schools. SB 552 gives the Governor authority to appoint the most qualified leader at the helm of our public schools. Currently, many effective educational leaders are unlikely to leave current positions to run a statewide campaign for an office they may not win that pays less than half of the annual salary of a large school district superintendent.

SB 94—Streamlining health care reporting to save time and money

Saves money and eliminates red tape by directing the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop uniform standards for health care financial and administrative transactions.

SB 238—Less time with paperwork, more time with patients

Streamlines paperwork requirements by the Oregon Health Authority so that doctors can spend more time taking care of patients and less with unnecessary and cumbersome forms and reports.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Government Accountability and Efficiency

HB 3105—Encouraging electronic records

Saves taxpayer dollars and supports the Legislature's effort to reduce paper by requiring electronic submittal of certain documents that are required to be sent to members of the Legislature under statute.

SB 676—Implementing outcomes-based budgeting

Improves accountability and transparency by giving the Legislature and state agencies tools within the state budgeting process that ensure a focus on outcomes and excellence. This will help the state get the greatest value out of every tax dollar.

HB 2788—Increasing government transparency

Makes it easier to access public records from the State Treasurer's office by adding the Treasurer to the list of agencies subject to Oregon transparency website requirements.

SB 739—Greater transparency in the public process

Improves government accountability and transparency by requiring the Legislature to post online lists of witnesses who testify for or against bills.

HB 3291—Holding agencies accountable to oversight audits

Helps make government more efficient and accountable by requiring state agencies to report to the Legislature on the steps they are taking to implement recommendations from audits conducted by the Secretary of State. These audits point out areas of waste or mismanagement and agencies should be held accountable to fix these problems.

SB 40—Cracking down on fraudulent charities *

Allows the Attorney General to disqualify a charitable organization from receiving tax deductible contributions from state taxpayers if the organization fails to spend at least 30 percent of its total annual budget on program services rather than administration.

SB 163—Creating more accountable leadership of State Marine Board *

Directs the Governor to appoint the State Marine Director, giving executive oversight over the Marine Board.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Government Accountability and Efficiency *(continued)*

HB 2403—Improving reintegration for veterans throughout state agencies

Requires the state agencies veterans use most often to work with the Oregon Military Department to help Oregon veterans reintegrate in their communities.

SB 560—Better use of school time by eliminating reporting requirements

Reduces costs by giving the Oregon Department of Education flexibility in how often school districts are required to update paperwork.

SB 556—Cutting costs in the state motor pool

Saves money used to reimburse employees who use their own vehicles for state business by requiring all agencies to use a tiered rate schedule to reimburse vehicle mileage.

HB 2546—Eliminating tax breaks for PERS retirees who move out of state

Eliminates a benefit for certain PERS retirees who reside out of state. PERS retirees living in Oregon receive an increased benefit to offset Oregon income taxes on their retirement benefits. However, retirees that subsequently move out of state continue to receive the benefit even though they no longer pay taxes to the State of Oregon. HB 2456 prohibits the increased benefit for these out-of-state residents.

HB 5048—Greater management of the state's finances by Treasury

Approved other funds use to enhance the State Treasurer's efforts to manage the state's financial resources, including funds specifically allocated for the maintenance of a new debt tracking system, protecting public funds in credit unions, and supporting purchases of credit risk monitoring and security analysis research services.

OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

Finance & Revenue

SB 301—Tax relief for businesses, students and parents

“Reconnects” the Oregon tax code to key provisions in federal tax code, streamlining the filing process and allowing businesses to claim a deduction for bonus depreciation, parents to claim a tax deduction for covering children on their health insurance up to age 27, and college students to deduct tuition expenses.

HB 3672—Overhauling Oregon’s tax credit system

Implements sweeping reform of Oregon's tax credit system, increasing transparency and focusing credits to enhance impact while saving the state \$368 million between now and 2017.

HB 3543—Kicker checks as tax credits

Ends mail delivery of Oregonians' kicker checks, potentially saving millions of tax dollars and allowing taxpayers to receive their rebate as a tax credit.

HB 2541—Updates connection to federal Internal Revenue code

Updates and clarifies Oregon's estate tax law, reducing administrative burden and supporting the long term viability of farm and forestland through changes to the natural resource credit. HB 2541 maintains the current \$1 million threshold for the estate tax as well as the existing 16 percent top rate.

SB 19—Saving millions through bonding modifications

Saves taxpayers million of dollars in interest payments by allowing the state to issue General Obligation bonds to finance state building and equipment projects. The voters authorized this change by passing Measure 72 in November 2010.

HB 2543—Property tax help for low-income seniors and disabled

Helps to ensure that Oregon's property tax deferral program for low income seniors and disabled individuals is fiscally sound and provides aid to those who need it most by adding accountability measures, such as requiring that participants own and live in their homes at least 5 years and that the homes aren't valued over a certain amount, based on county median income and the length of time the participant has lived in the home.