

Big I Oregon

March 8, 2024

The 2024 Legislative Session adjourned on Thursday March 7th with major accomplishments including packages addressing housing, drugs, and campaign spending.

Overall, on those big issues, the legislature worked together better than we have seen in a long time. They reached a compromise on recriminalizing drugs which neither side was particularly happy with. To me that means it truly was a compromise. On housing, they passed the one bill introduced by the Governor with only small changes. It will likely be years before we see if that helps the issue, but at least they were willing to try.

The campaign finance reform legislation, HB 4024, came together with a surprise ending. What was to be a referral to voters in November became a normal bill when backers of ballot initiative efforts said they would withdraw their petitions if the governor signed this bill. This means Oregon voters will not have competing issues on the November ballot. Truly a win for all in this session.

For the two identical wildfire settlement bills, SB 1520 passed, and HB 4007 was left in committee. Moving both bills through the house was an interesting choice because they were the same and the senate bill had already passed one chamber. The house chair said it was done to make sure the issue passed. That was only interesting because the house stopped the same bill last session after it passed the senate.

On the other tracked issues for The Big I, there were no surprises in the end and the final list is below. The next scheduled action for the legislature is quarterly committee days May 28th -31st.

Campaigns are now in full swing with the deadline to file for office Tuesday March 12th. The primary election is May 21st. This means we will be treated to an onslaught of campaign ads very soon. With contested primaries for all the statewide offices, no one will be excluded from the rhetoric. The only limiting factor is likely to be campaign funds, which can be very difficult to raise in contested primaries. From the time ballots are mailed in early May until election day candidates will be using every available method they can afford to try and win your vote.

HB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To	Category
4007A	Monitor	4	2/22/24	Roger Beyer	P & C

[Bill](#)
[Info](#)

Summary: Creates an Oregon tax subtraction for wildfire-related legal fees paid by plaintiffs. Allows taxpayer to amend return to claim refund for earliest tax year in which a subtraction is allowed. Applies to wildfire emergency declarations and executive orders issued on or after January 1, 2018, and before January 1, 2026, and to amounts received, losses incurred and legal fees paid in all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Status: Dead

3/7/24 S - In committee upon adjournment.

3/5/24 S - Referred to Finance and Revenue.

3/5/24 S - First reading. Referred to President's desk.

3/5/24 H - Rules suspended. Third reading. Carried by Cate. Passed.

3/5/24 H - Second reading.

HB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To	Category
4066	No Position	0	2/1/24	Roger Beyer	P & C

[Bill](#)
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Summary: Requires insurance coverage for motor vehicles to be made available as part of a peer-to-peer car sharing arrangement. Specifies coverage requirements and apportions responsibility for coverage among the car sharing program operator, the shared vehicle owner and the shared vehicle driver. Requires certain disclosures to the shared vehicle owner and shared vehicle driver in a car sharing program agreement. Requires the shared vehicle owner to address recall notices for defects that affect the safety of a shared vehicle.

Status: Dead

2/26/24 H - Informational Meeting held.

2/5/24 H - Referred to Business and Labor.

2/5/24 H - First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

HB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To
4091	Monitor	4	2/1/24	Roger Beyer

[Bill](#)
[Info](#)

Summary: Establishes the Health Insurance Mandate Review Advisory Committee, staffed by the Legislative Policy and Research Director, to meet during interims between sessions of the Legislative Assembly to review any proposed measure sponsored by or submitted to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health if the measure requires health insurance policies to reimburse specified health care providers or to reimburse the cost of a specific service. Specifies the membership of the

committee and the type of review that the committee must undertake. Requires the committee to produce a report of its findings on each proposed measure no later than January 15 of the year in which the measure may be introduced or 15 days after a review is requested, whichever is later. Requires the director to report to the Legislative Assembly, by December 31, 2026, on the work of the committee and recommendations for legislation. Sunsets June 30, 2027. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Status: Dead

2/14/24 H - Referred to Ways and Means by order of Speaker.

2/14/24 H - Recommendation: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means.

2/12/24 H - Work Session held.

2/5/24 H - Public Hearing held.

2/5/24 H - Referred to Behavioral Health and Health Care.

2/5/24 H - First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

HB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To
4100	Monitor	5	2/1/24	Roger Beyer

[Bill](#)
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Summary: Prohibits the recovery from customers of certain costs and expenses that a public utility incurs as a result of negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the public utility. Requires an investor-owned electric utility to provide an incident report to the Department of the State Fire Marshal and the State Forestry Department whenever a fire-related incident occurs that is caused by the utility's electric power line and to provide a copy of the incident report to the Public Utility Commission. Provides that the incident report may be used as evidence. Specifies the recoverable economic damages allowed for damage or injury to property caused by a wildfire. Allows the use of other objectively verifiable information to determine fair market value.

Status: Dead

2/5/24 H - Referred to Judiciary.

2/5/24 H - First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

SB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To	Category
1520B	Monitor	4	2/22/24	Roger Beyer	P & C

[Bill](#)
[Info](#)

Summary: **Creates an Oregon tax subtraction for wildfire-related legal fees paid by plaintiffs.** Allows taxpayer to amend return to claim refund for earliest tax year in which subtraction is allowed. Applies to declarations and executive orders issued on or after January 1, 2018, and before January 1, 2026, and to amounts received, **losses incurred and legal fees paid** in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Status:

3/7/24 H - Speaker signed.
3/7/24 S - President signed.
3/6/24 S - Girod declared potential conflict of interest.
3/6/24 S - Senate concurred in House amendments and repassed bill.
3/5/24 H - Rules suspended. Third reading. Carried by Gomberg. Passed.
3/5/24 H - Second reading.

SB	Position	Priority	Date Input	Assigned To	Category
1576A	Monitor	3	2/16/24	Roger Beyer	P & C

[Bill](#)
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Summary: Modifies provisions regarding disclosure of certain materials relating to consumer data investigations by the Attorney General. Provides for confidentiality of court records relating to certain settlements of minors' claims. Modifies provisions relating to recreational immunity and makes some of the changes temporary. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Status:

3/7/24 H - Speaker signed.
3/7/24 S - President signed.
3/5/24 H - Third reading. Carried by Gomberg. Passed.
3/4/24 H - Rules suspended. Carried over to March 5, 2024 Calendar.
3/4/24 H - Second reading.