

Oregon Legislative Newsletter for March 26, 2017:

Multnomah Friends: Please join our **postcard and letter-writing table** today in the social hall. If you don't yet know who your 2017 Oregon legislators are, we will be glad to help.

Major Actions You Can Take This Week:

Watch Some Hearings on Climate: Per Senator Michael Dembrow: “The Senate and House environmental committees are meeting jointly once a week [Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.] for the purpose of exploring in detail what a carbon pricing program could do for Oregon.” You can watch these very informative discussions on line or archived at www.oregonlegislature.gov and gather insights for discussions with your legislators as the climate bills come up for voting. The main climate bill is **SB 557, the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill**, setting emissions goals and limits, but the work group is exploring many concepts. Other pertinent bills include SB 748 (carbon permits), HB 2135 (emissions goals) and HB 2468 (emissions limits).

Volunteer this Wednesday evening at the phone bank to end no-cause evictions in Oregon: EMO (Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) recommends this phone bank in support of **HB 2004**. It will be on Wednesday, 3/29, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at 6401 SE Foster. Contact Britt Conroy at EMO for details: bconroy@emoregon.org

Help the homeless by contacting your legislators and urging the allocation of \$50 million in the biennial budget to go to EHA and SHAP (the Emergency Housing Account and the State Homeless Assistance Program).

Contact your legislators and share your views on ways to address Oregon's current \$1.7 billion budget crisis, for example by raising revenue via corporate taxes in an improved version of Measure 97 that was defeated last fall. You may not be an expert in the technicalities of revenue, but you can share your convictions about what values you think are most important.

Legislative News Updates:

Schedule of deadlines:

(with thanks to Oregon League of Women Voters)

April 7: Deadline for committee chairs to schedule work sessions in the bills' house of origin.

April 18: Deadline for committee chairs to hold work sessions in the bills' house of origin.

April 21: LWVOR's Day at the Legislature. [Register today!](#)

May 19: Deadline for committees to schedule work sessions on measures that originated in the opposite chamber.

June 2: Deadline for committees to hold work sessions on measures that originated in the opposite chamber.

June 23: Target adjournment of 2017 Legislative Session.

July 10: Constitutional deadline for adjournment of 2017 Legislative Session.

This means that if you are interested in a bill, it needs to have had its hearing and be at least scheduled for a work session by April 7; you can contact the chair of the committee now and urge that he or she move the bill along so it can stay alive.

Good News:

An update on bills that have made the April 7 deadline already:

“Cover All Kids” – HB 2726 and SB 558

HB 2864 – establishes a Cultural Competency committee in each community college and public university. The House Education Committee has scheduled a 3/28 hearing with possible work session.

SB 692 – “pre-entry” care for those entering jail or prison (helping them set their affairs in order, make decisions for the welfare of their

children, put loan repayments on hold, etc.) -- hearing was 3/14, work session will be 3/28 in Senate Judiciary.

SB 241 and SB 242 – task force for Children of Incarcerated Parents, and expanding the (inmates’) Family Preservation Project – hearing and work session will be 4/3 in Senate Judiciary.

HB 2355 – establish task force to gather statewide data on police stops – hearing was 3/6, and work session will be 3/30 in House Judiciary.

SB 82 – prohibits solitary confinement of minors – **has already passed in the Senate!** Now in House Judiciary.

SB 802 – allows 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote (under current law, 17-year-olds can pre-register, but age 16 is when young people go to DMV to get their driver’s license or state ID).

SB 683 – will provide **postage-paid** envelopes for mailing in your ballot (some people can’t get to a ballot collection box easily). Both this and SB 802 are intended to make voting easier and encourage voter participation, and both have been rated as high priority by the Portland branch of the NAACP. (Thanks to our Racial Justice Friends for passing along this information).

And maybe on these your phone call is needed:

Other bills of interest that do not have work sessions scheduled yet:

Housing and Homelessness:

HB 2001 and HB 2003, lifting state preemptions.

HB 2006, reforming Oregon’s mortgage interest deduction (most of which goes to the wealthiest 20% of taxpayers).

HB 2240, prohibiting landlord from terminating a month-to-month tenancy without cause.

HB 2210, housing assistance in the form of grants to owners to rehab and maintain their multifamily rental housing at affordable rental rates.

HB 2570, Affordable Homeownership Grant Program.

HB 2215, Right to Rest for homeless people.

Protecting the Vulnerable:

HB 3347 – Dept. of Education to collect statewide data on harassment, intimidations, bullying, and cyberbullying.

HB 2845 – create a statewide K-12 ethnic studies curriculum on the histories, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic minorities and social minorities. “Social minorities” means women, people with disabilities, immigrants, refugees, and individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

SB 496 – require grand jury proceedings to be recorded. In places like Ferguson we have seen the importance of this.

HB 2355 – gather statewide data on police stops.

Wage Theft: Procedural rules that would help employees collect in court: HB 2169, HB 2180, and HB 2181.

Integrity:

HB 2909, which would require US Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates to disclose the last 5 years of their tax returns, if they want to be listed on our Oregon ballot and included in our Oregon Voters Pamphlet.

Peace/Gun Safety:

HB 2130 -- Child Access Prevention

HB 2237 -- closing the Charleston loophole

HB 2523 – safekeeping of firearms

SB 232 – dispossession of guns for DVRO (domestic violence restraining order)

Prisons and Punishments:

HB 2251 – minors may not be incarcerated in (an adult) corrections institution.

HB 3078 and SB 894 – modifies Family Sentencing Alternative pilot program.

HJR 2 – abolishes the death penalty in Oregon.

From Your Editors:

We'll do our best to have weekly updates during the 2017 Oregon legislative session. If you have additions, corrections, questions, or concerns, please contact Mary Priem at mkpriem@yahoo.com and/or Zoe Wyse at zoe.wyse257@marylhurst.edu