

OREGON CREDIT UNIONS

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To: Oregon Credit Union CEO's

From: Pam Leavitt, Vice President Regional Grassroots & Political Programs/Legislative Affairs for Oregon

CC: Troy Stang, President and CEO, GoWest
Jennifer Wagner, EVP and Chief Advocacy Officer, GoWest

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This is one of the busiest weeks in the Oregon Capitol. The last legislative update outlined some of the credit union priority bills, and this week I wanted to share some of the other important legislation we are following.

This is the last full week before the arrival of the first-chamber deadline on April 4th. That's the last day for a bill to be sent out of committee (either to the floor for a vote or to another committee for further consideration) or else it is dead. That means that most committee agendas for the week are full of public hearings and especially work sessions (i.e., committee votes). Bills that are not ready for a vote are sometimes moved to the Rules Committee that does not have deadlines to continue the work on the bill.

Ways and Means Co-Chairs Unveil Their Framework Budget

The Ways and Means Co-Chairs released a high-level framework of their budget proposal which is an important step in this legislative session. The budget proposal takes a different approach in many areas from the budget proposed by the Governor at the beginning of the year. It's now up to the Ways and Means process via its subcommittees, along with discussions between the Governor and the Presiding Officers (Senate President and Speaker of the House) to finalize. Notably, the Co-Chairs' budget is quite conservative in several ways. It is focused on funding existing programs but not leaving much of anything for new initiatives. It calls for 2.5% reductions in all existing state programs, mainly by eliminating vacant positions.

Housing and Homelessness

The Governor's top priority this legislative session is Housing and last week the House passed two bills, HB2001 and HB5019, which direct approximately \$200 million to build more affordable housing and fund expansion of homeless services.

The bills are expected to provide a range of services including expanded shelter capacity and expanded resources for youth homelessness, rental assistance, modular housing, tribal support, agriculture employee housing, and rural homeless services.

Update on Credit Union Priority Bills

Our bill to update the Oregon Credit Union Act, HB3200A, passed the House floor by a vote of 57-0 with 3 excused! Rep. Rob Nosse, who was the winner of this year's Community Impact Award, presented the bill on the floor and said it was his first bill he carried without any "no" votes and he was very pleased to get it through! The next stop is the Senate Labor and Business Committee.

SB3, the GoWest Credit Union Association bill on financial education, is scheduled for a work session this Thursday. We have been working over the past week to make sure the bill is not sent to the Ways and Means Committee because of cost. Our hope is that it goes to the Senate floor and then to a House policy committee. We will find out what the fiscal on the bill looks like in a couple days.

The data privacy bill, SB619, is scheduled for a work session this week but the final amendment has not been released. GoWest testified on the importance of the exemption language. The budget for the Department of Consumer and Business Services is up this week and GoWest will be testifying. In addition, we are still working on an amendment to HB3080 which includes the electronic titling for vehicles language. This bill sits in a committee that does not have the deadline for next week so there is time to finalize. The bill that GoWest has been meeting with the Speaker's office, along with a coalition of folks, on garnishment and the homestead exemption, will be moved to the House Rules Committee for further discussion on the bill. Specifically, the bill exempts from execution or garnishment specific property and funds of judgment debtor. For additional background, please refer to my previous legislative update report.

Business/Employment Bills

The GoWest Credit Union Association, along with several Oregon credit unions, are member of Oregon Business & Industry. Through this Association we work with other business leaders around the state on general employment bills. We meet regularly to find agreement and work on joint coalition letters. Here are just a few of the bills we are tracking this session:

- **Hiring and Retention Bonuses.** GoWest signed onto a coalition letter in support on HB3205, which would exempt hiring and retention bonuses from Oregon's Equal Pay statute. Last Monday, the House Committee on Business and Labor heard the bill. Reps. Janelle Bynum (D-Clackamas County) and Hai Pham (D-Washington County), who are House sponsors of the bill, along with a panel of four employers—public and private—representing education, healthcare, and service industries demonstrated why Oregon employers need flexibility to offer hiring and retention bonuses to recruit and retain workers. Stakeholders from industries ranging from transportation to law enforcement

and from retail to higher education submitted written testimony in support. Oregon is the only state with such restrictions on these bonuses.

- **Paid Leave Oregon / Oregon Family Leave Act.** OBI is working to get some better alignment between these two significant leave laws. They expect significant amendments and fixes to the laws that will be included in SB999.
- **Employer Burdens.** We are also following SB851, which would hold employers liable for everything from poor performance reviews to disagreements between employees, and SB907, which would allow employees to refuse work they deem is too dangerous and take paid sick leave when they do so. The bills were heard by the Senate Committee on Labor and Business. Neither bill has been scheduled for a vote.
- **Insurance - "Bad Faith" Suits and the UTPA.** Last week, the House Committee on Business and Labor sent two bills to the House Floor (HB3242 and HB3243) that would raise insurance rates and bog down Oregon's court system with unnecessary litigation by allowing individuals to file lawsuits against insurance companies for alleged "bad faith" negotiating tactics and strip the insurance industry's exemption under Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

Upcoming OR Meeting!

All Oregon CEO's are invited to attend the upcoming 2nd quarter Oregon Governmental Affairs Committee on Wednesday, April 12th. This is an in-person meeting includes and open roundtable lunch discussion along with a guest speaker. Please come and network with other Oregon CEO's!

The meeting will be held at:

Central Willamette Credit Union

7101 Supra Drive, SW

Albany, OR 97321

(CWCU is located across the street from Linn Benton Community College)

The agenda includes:

10 a.m. – Noon – OR GAC meeting

Noon – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch/Roundtable

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Angela Wilhelm, President/CEO, Oregon Business & Industry

Please see the registration for the meeting below:

[2023 Q2 Oregon GAC & Roundtable Luncheon Registration](#)

A zoom link will be provided for those who are not available to attend in person, but we hope to see you there!

Pam Leavitt

Vice President Regional Grassroots & Political Programs/Legislative Affairs for
Oregon

503.887.2336 | 800.995.9064

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