

# Social Policy

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## Healthcare (Bill Walsh)

It's been an exciting week in health care, both in the [House Health Care](#) (HHC) and [Senate Health Care](#) (SHC) Committees.

On 3/16/21 HHC had a Public Hearing on [HB 3352](#) and reconciled [HB 2164-3](#) where Governor Kate Brown headed a long list of supporters for Cover All People, a Medicaid expansion to undocumented people, including individuals who age out of Cover All Kids act. [HB 2421](#) establishes an Oregon Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force. [HB 2113](#) expands the Oregon Medical Board to add a geographic diversity requirement. [HB 2528](#) directs the Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist licenses, including to dental hygienists. HHC Work Sessions passed on [HB 2088](#), which adds tribal traditional health workers as an additional category of traditional health care workers; [HB 3057](#) passed 7-3, authorizing the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to release COVID-19 information under certain conditions; [HB 3011](#) provides funding to OHA for a hospital nurse staffing program, it now goes to Ways & Means (W&M); [HB 3016](#) passed 6-4, adding requirements for suspension of hospital nurse staffing plans during emergency declarations. [HB 2981](#) requires OHA to establish a palliative care program and support provision of home- and community-based end of life care. [HB 2044](#) allows the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to access All Payer All Claims as part of DSBS confidential services.

SHC experienced a technical blackout on 3/15/21 so there was no meeting. On 3/17/21 (Happy St. Patrick's Day) Public Hearings were held on [SB 168](#) which requires insurance coverage for fertility and reproductive endocrinology services; [SB 781](#) modifies provisions relating to providing timely results of tests to patients; [SB 758](#) changes "Oregon Medical Marijuana Act" to "Oregon Medical and Therapeutic Cannabis Act," and updates a half dozen provisions; [SB 12](#) was carried over. SHC Work Sessions passed: [SB 557-1](#) establishes Compact of Free Association (COFA) within OHA to provide dental care to low-income citizens of Pacific Islands; [SB 706](#) requires OHA to provide a grant to COFA members for outreach (both of these now go to Ways & Means); [SB 567](#) makes it unlawful for providers to deny treatment due to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability; [SB 641](#) prohibits denial of medical services to individuals under 19 years of age in detention, using Medicaid expansion funds; and [SB 587](#) requires Department of Revenue to issue license to retailers of tobacco and inhalant delivery systems.

## Health and Human Services (Karen Nibler)

Criminal Justice and Mental Health: Defendants not able to aid and assist in their own defense will receive services at the Oregon State Hospital or community mental health according to [SB 187](#), [SB 189](#) and an amended [SB 295](#). The 2020 session considered a bill to modify the aid and assist statutes but did not pass.

A work group developed a plan for services in the community health system to relieve overcrowding at the state hospital. SB 295 narrows the criteria for a commitment to the state hospital according to mental health diagnosis, acuity of symptoms and ability to engage in treatment. This bill decreases waiting time in jail for those who can be treated in the community and retains accountability for those who do not comply with treatment plans. SB 295 -1 was passed.

SB 187 and SB 189 consider the evaluation of the term dangerous to self or others. The Oregon Psychiatric Association prefers civil commitment without arrest and commitment to the State Hospital. NAMI staff agree that the civil system is better. Parents testified about incidents with adult children and the need for funding for community services.

[SB 755](#) was written to implement BM 110 to end criminalization of substance abuse and possession of small amounts of illegal drugs. Richard Harris, the former Addictions and Mental Health Director in Oregon, supported this health based services plan. Medicaid provides services for substance abuse disorders, but safe housing, employment and peer mentors are needed for sobriety.

The League supports comprehensive mental health service delivery at the community level. However, the funding for local community health agencies has not been sufficient in past state budgets. The clinics rely primarily on Medicaid billing and federal grants to operate clinics. BM 110 will bring in marijuana tax funds for substance abuse treatment, but the budget priorities for Oregon Health Authority will play into the future provision of substance abuse services.

[SB 817](#) was filed to replace [SB 422](#) on juvenile court fees. The new bill amends the Juvenile Code to remove charges for court appointed attorneys, juvenile department supervision, and fines. Juveniles will be responsible for payments for restitution to victims and families will be responsible for treatment costs. The child support payments for those placed in Oregon Youth Authority will be discontinued as it proved to be a lingering burden for families. The bill has been scheduled for a work session.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held work sessions on [SB 204 -1](#) and [SB 621](#) on civil oversight and police bargaining, which Senator Fredericks will carry to the Senate floor. [SB 575 -1](#) on the expungement of records in juvenile departments was passed and sent to the Public Safety Ways and Means Committee. There is a cost involved in processing through the Juvenile Justice System database in the Oregon Youth Authority purview.

Two bills, [SB 48](#) and [SB 418](#) are in the amendment process. SB 48 asks the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to study pretrial release conditions. The Director proposed a -1 amendment to eliminate minimum bail in favor of case by case decisions with a 5 step process from personal recognizance, conditional release with regulations, a release agreement, or a security release (payment of 10%) if there is no history of failure to appear. In case of violent felony charges, there is no bail only detention. Currently a large security bail is required for release, which is not possible for those without means.

SB 418 on forensic interviews of juveniles has opposition from Youth, Rights and Justice, a public defense firm, and the Innocence Project. The Police and Sheriff's Association had recommendations for changes according to age ranges. The Oregon District Attorneys Association was opposed to language in the bill, which could result in litigation. No amendments have been filed yet.

The House Judiciary held hearings on [HB 2003](#) which expanded the number of members on the Public Defense Services Commission. The Oregon Judicial Department has an operating account to fund staffing for applications for appointment of defense attorneys. [HB 2169-1](#) on a Racial Justice Council will recommend study and grants for restorative justice programs. The Criminal Justice Commission will manage the grant process.

Work Sessions on [HB 2481-5](#) and [HB 2942-8](#) were passed. HB 2481-5 prohibited the purchase of specific military surplus equipment, not vehicles but armaments. HB2942-8 removed certain non-violent crimes from restrictions on teacher licensing. These bills passed, although there were objections to the teacher licensing bill, which will be referred to the House Education Committee for further evaluation.

## Housing (Debbie Aiona and Nancy Donovan)

The Legislature continues to consider a wide variety of bills to address the state's housing crisis. Issue areas include wildfire recovery, manufactured home parks, homelessness, tenant support, housing supply, fair housing, and homeownership. Bills not scheduled for a work session by last Friday, March 19, will not move forward through the process.

[HB 3218](#), heard by the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery included a presentation by the Housing and Community Services Department about the Housing Recovery Action Plan developed by the OHCS Disaster Housing Recovery Task Force. The bill would allow OHCS to direct funds from the Manufactured Housing Park Acquisition Fund towards rebuilding mobile home parks after last year's devastating wildfires. HB 3218 would expand the allowable use for Manufactured Housing Park Acquisition funds in areas affected by a natural disaster to include repair or reconstruction, as well as acquisition and development of bare land to build new parks. The bill also makes technical changes to improve programs that support manufactured homeowners.

[HB 2809](#) allows people to temporarily park their recreational vehicles for 24 months on properties with housing that is uninhabitable due to damages from a natural disaster, including wildfires, earthquakes, flooding or storms. A state agency or local government could not prohibit the placement of recreational vehicles if they are located in a manufactured dwelling park, mobile home park, or recreational vehicle park. They must be occupied as a residential dwelling and lawfully connected to water, electricity, and a sewage system. The bill would allow temporary RV siting until the date the dwelling has been restored and an occupancy permit issued.

[HB 2364](#), heard by the House Committee on Housing, would provide an opportunity for a resident owned cooperative, non-profit or housing authority to purchase a manufactured home park to keep it affordable to its residents. Manufactured homes and the parks in which they are located have been a key source of affordable housing for many

Oregonians. In total, there are over 62,000 manufactured homes in over 1,000 communities across Oregon. Over the past several years, investor owners bring challenges to the residents, including a lack of investment or money to adequately maintain a park, while residents experience continued rent increases. HB 2364 and the -1 amendments would require an owner of a manufactured home park to give tenants 20 days to form a tenants committee and give them the right to be the first party to put an offer on a property to maintain its affordability.

[SB 291](#) Individualized assessment of rental applications: Individuals with criminal backgrounds find their history with the justice system a significant barrier to securing stable housing. SB 291 would require landlords to consider supplemental information when reviewing rental applications. In that way, people with a criminal past can demonstrate more recent achievements such as successful participation in diversion programs or stable employment. Landlords will be required to take into account certain factors such as age at the time of offense, the amount of time that has passed since the offense occurred, and the nature of the incidents.

Racial disparities exist throughout the criminal justice system, so Black and Latinx people are disproportionately affected and have greater difficulty securing housing. According to Central City Concern data, recidivism can be reduced by more than half when an individual has a stable home. This concept originated with the Governor's Racial Justice Council. A public hearing and work session have been held on this bill.

[HB 3040](#) System Development Charges: This bill would require a study of the timing and possible deferral of SDCs on residential development. The revenue from these fees assessed on new development helps pay for the infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, roads, parks) needed to serve the new development. Local governments expressed considerable concern about the proposed legislation due to difficulty of administration and the risk of non-payment. Furthermore, there is no clear connection between housing affordability and the legislation. The League supports orderly

growth, which includes the ability to pay for needed infrastructure. This legislation could prove to be a barrier to that goal.

[HB 2701](#) System Development Charge Program for Rural Affordable Housing: This bill would pilot a fund in the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to pay SDC fees on multi-family housing in rural communities that is affordable to households earning below 60 percent of median family income. The units would be affordable for at least 10 years. This program would promote low-income housing in rural communities without negatively affecting infrastructure needs.

[HB 2094](#) Definition of “Veteran” for the purpose of Oregon Housing and Community Services programs: This bill would allow OHCS to standardize the definition of veteran and allow veterans discharged because of pregnancy or “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” for example, to qualify for housing programs. A hearing and work session have been held on this bill and it has a “do pass” recommendation. Veterans experience a disproportionate degree of housing instability, so this will allow OHCS to provide support to a greater number of individuals who have served in the military.

## Gun Safety (Marge Easley)

Committee work sessions are now scheduled for two key gun bills. On March 23, the House Judiciary Committee will vote on the Charleston Loophole bill ([HB 2543](#)), which would eliminate the ability to purchase a firearm after three days without a background check. On March 30, a work session is scheduled for the Safe Storage bill ([HB 2510](#)) in House Health Care. Both bills are sure to generate strong feelings on both sides of the aisle, so stay tuned for the expected drama.

[SB 396](#), the Attorney General’s bill to ban undetectable and untraceable guns, was scheduled for a hearing on March 25 and a work session on April 1, but it was abruptly pulled from the Senate Judiciary schedule. Hopefully, more information about this bill will be forthcoming.

## Immigration, Refugee, other Rights/Basic Needs (Claudia Keith)

Priority Bills with work sessions posted - May have League testimony:

[SB 778](#): Establishes Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to implement and oversee statewide immigrant and refugee integration strategy. Directs Governor to appoint director of office. Appropriates funds to office. Hearing 3/30, Work Session 4/6.

[SB 718](#): Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to award grants to refugee resettlement agencies to provide specified services to refugees. Hearing 3/30 Work Session 4/8.

[SB 569](#): Makes unlawful employment practice for an employer to require employee or prospective employee to possess or present valid driver's license as condition of employment or continuation of employment. Work Session was 3/16 Unanimous vote. Gelser, Patterson.

[HB 3265](#): The Sanctuary Promise Act. Public hearing 3/25, Work Session 4/8 [Read the LWVOR and LWVUS 2020 immigration resolution.](#)

[HB 3230](#): Universal Legal Representation for persons in immigration matters. (fiscal not posted, Text: General Fund \$10M.) Hearing 3/30 and Work session 4/6

Following, no testimony planned at this time:

[HB 2169](#): Gov Brown directs Racial Justice Council to study potential changes to criminal justice system and to provide results of study to Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 202 PH 3/18, work session 4/6.

[HB 3041](#): at the request of Basic Rights Oregon, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries Val Hoyle. Removes "gender identity" from the definition of "sexual orientation" in ORS 174.100 and creates stand-alone definition of "gender identity" in ORS 174.100. Hearing 2/10, Work Session 3/23 and 3/30

[SB 70 Work session held 2/22](#): on its way to W&M. Oregon Health Authority: Defines "regional health equity coalition" and "regional health equity coalition model." Requires Oregon Health Authority to work with regional health equity coalitions and groups utilizing regional health equity coalition model throughout the state.

[SB398](#) Hate/Bias Crime – ‘Ban the Noose’, work session 3/10 with partisan vote.