

# Social Policy

4/5/2021

By Marge Easley, Bill Walsh, Nancy Donovan, Karen Nibler and Debbie Aiona, Social Policy Portfolio

## Gun Safety (Marge Easley)

Three gun bills supported by the League are still in play this session. [SB 554A](#), which bans firearms in all state public buildings and permits local jurisdictions to ban firearms in local public buildings if they so choose, passed the Senate in a contentious floor session on March 25 and has received a first reading in the House.

On March 30, work sessions were held on [HB 2543](#) in House Judiciary and on HB 2510 in House Health Care. HB 2543, which eliminates the Charleston Loophole and prevents the transfer of a firearm without a background check, surprisingly did not receive a vote but was instead sent to House Rules, where it will be kept alive past the usual deadline. This does not bode well for the bill, however, since it may very well be allowed to die in committee or serve as a bargaining chip if needed. [HB 2510](#), the Safe Storage Bill, passed out of committee on a party line vote and is headed to the Senate floor on April 5.

## Healthcare (Bill Walsh)

The [Senate Health Care](#) (SHC) Committee passed the following bills: [SB 143](#), which extends sunset for tax credit for rural medical care; [SB 700-1](#) establishes Oregon Brain Injury Trust Board and now moves to Ways & Means Committee; [SB 741](#) repeals the sunset for the Central Oregon Health Council; and [SB 711](#) requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

to study and report on cost differences between men and women pharmaceuticals and was carried over; [SB 558](#) prohibits insurance companies from requiring filling prescriptions only with mail-order entities, allowing local pharmacies to fill prescriptions; [SB 560](#) requires insurer to count payments made on behalf of enrollee of costs for care toward enrollee's out-of-pocket maximum or cost-sharing; and [SB 584](#) requires OHA to continue Medicaid services to disabled persons who work, which will require federal approval or a waiver.

SHC held Public Hearings on bills: [SB 758](#) is a huge re-work/reform that changes the name and regulations of the Medical Marijuana Act to Medical and Therapeutic Cannabis Act, new rules for growers and permanent medical cards for cardholders, among many other changes; [SB 848](#) establishes an Office of Pharmaceutical Purchasing in OHA to lower costs for consumers; [SB 629](#) allows pharmacists to use telepharmacy in remote locations; [SB 157](#) exempts medical marijuana card holders from paying MJ sales tax; [SB 850](#) would require counties to track and report on homeless/houseless persons to better understand how to address this problem; [SB 800](#) requires OHA to study and make recommendations to maximize federal funding to address staffing shortages and other problems; [SB 674](#) asks OHA to study and recommend new options for family and friends to be with people in hospitals and nursing homes in their last stages of life; and [SB 772](#) requires insurers to pay naturopathy physicians services at the same rate as medical physicians.

The [House Health Care](#) (HCC) Committee passed the following bills: [HB 2510](#) is called the "safe storage" gun law and after debate passed 6 to 4 and sent to the Floor; [HB 2462](#) requires pharmacist benefit managers (PBM) to amend their contracts to take into account costs incurred from new taxes or fees and it passed without recommendation to the Committee on Revenue; [HB 3107](#) requires birthing centers to test for spinal muscular atrophy on newborns; [HB 2591](#) allows mobile school-based centers to apply for safety net grants and sent to Ways and Means; [HB 2970](#) clarifies rules for practicing advanced nonablative

esthetics procedures (Advanced nonablative esthetics encompasses seven modalities: skin rejuvenation, body contouring, dyschromia reduction, cellulite reduction, hair removal or reduction, and nonablative tattoo removal. OHA).

HCC held public hearings on these bills: [HB 2623](#) requires insurers to limit cost-sharing for insulin to \$75 for 30 days; [HB 2958](#) allows pharmacist to prescribe and dispense PrEP and PEP (PrEP stands for Pre-exposure prophylaxis and PEP stands for post-exposure prophylaxis) to HIV patients after patient assessment; [HB 2376](#) requires provider who prescribes opioid to offer prescription for naloxone under specified circumstances; [HB 2987](#) adopts rules requiring infants to be screened for certain diseases, e.g. Krabbe disease; [HB 2046](#) clarifies dates and rules for the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to re-align with ACA insurance regulations.

A very interesting exchange occurred in the first HHC evening (5 to 7 pm) meeting on 4/1/21. Vice-Chair Rep. Salinas presented her Public Option bill ([HB 2010](#)) which calls for data points in a OHA/DCBS study to determine which population(s) should be included in the public option for a bill to be submitted in the 2022 session. Vice-Chair Hayden then offered his Public Option bill ([HB 3381](#)) which he described as “actionable” sooner using a carrot rather than a stick approach, and includes a 2023 deadline for groups (e.g., small business, PEBB, EBB, ACA individuals, self-insured, etc.) to voluntarily join a state-run program to enlarge the risk pool because the program will have bulk-purchasing power (drugs) and save money for all. After a spirited and civil discussion, Chair Prusak asked her Vice-Chairs to meet and see if their bills could be merged into one bill that could move forward. Stay tuned.

## Housing (Debbie Aiona and Nancy Donovan)

The House approved [HB 3261](#) that would allow hotels and motels within urban growth boundaries to be repurposed for emergency shelters or long-term affordable housing. The pandemic and displacement caused by

wildfires provided the impetus for this action and are an indication of the steps lawmakers are willing to take in order to move more Oregonians into safe and stable housing.

[SB 852](#): The Senate Committee on Housing held a hearing on Mortgage Interest Deduction reform. If passed, this legislation would limit the deduction for households earning more than \$200,000 annually and eliminate it for households earning more than \$250,000. Except in limited circumstances, second homes would not be eligible for the deduction. The League submitted a [letter](#) in support of this reform. The MID is the largest housing subsidy in the state and by far benefits the most well off households. Estimated savings from the reform would be redirected and used to create the Oregon Housing Opportunity Account. Funds would be spent on homeownership programs particularly benefiting racial groups with low homeownership rates and for others experiencing housing barriers and instability.

[HB 5011](#): The Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development held two days of hearings on the Housing and Community Services Department budget. The League submitted a [letter](#) in support of the budget focusing on programs that prevent and end homelessness, provide affordable rental assistance, low-income energy assistance, low-income weatherization, and homeownership.

The House Committee on Housing held a public hearing on [HB 2007](#), to address racial disparities in homeownership. It authorizes the Housing and Community Services Department to provide grants, loans and technical assistance to organizations aimed at increasing homeownership in underserved communities. This bill is the product of the Joint Task Force to Address Racial Disparities in Home Ownership. A work session is scheduled for April 6.

The Senate Committee on Housing held a work session on [SB 282](#), directing the Housing and Community Services Department to study

issues related to rental housing. HCSD is to present the results of the study to a legislative committee by September 15, 2022.

The Senate Committee on Housing and Development held a public hearing on [SB 8](#). The bill would allow affordable housing on land that is zoned for commercial use, land owned by public entities, and land owned by non-profit religious institutions. A local jurisdiction could not conduct a rezone process for the development in these zones, but would be allowed to impose requirements upon design and building permits.

SB 8 would also expand on the protections approved previously in 2019 to provide attorneys' fees when an affordable housing development is challenged to the Land Use Board of Appeals and the project prevails. The bill expands the circumstances in which a project may be eligible for attorney's fees. The League has expressed concerns about this bill.

The definitions in Senate Bill 8 provide that these steps all affect buildings that are regulated affordable housing, meaning they are built most often with public dollars and are subject to lengthy use restrictions. A work session is scheduled for April 8.

The Senate Committee on Housing and Development held a public hearing [SB 458](#), which would allow land division to separate dwelling units for new middle housing that is allowed in cities. It prohibits homeowners' associations or restrictive covenants to forbid the land partition.

## Human Services (Karen Nibler)

### Human Services Bills – Playing catch up on Social Policy 4-5-21

House Human Services passed a few bills quickly: [HB 2505](#) on a Child Welfare Advocacy Committee, [HB 2826](#) on funding for child abuse assessment centers, and [HB 2830](#) on funding for a Child Abuse

Prevalence Study at the University of Oregon. The funding bills went to Human Services Ways and Means.

[HB 2952](#) asks to allocate funding for Behavioral Health in the Area Agencies for Aging, and [HB 2397-3](#) recommends a pilot with a Senior Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Both were sent to Ways and Means.

Two bills on Department of Human Services staffing concerned a workload assessment in [HB 2595](#) and an increase in direct care workers' wages in [HB 2964 -2](#). There was definite sympathy for direct care workers' appeal for higher pay. Both bills are scheduled for work sessions this coming week. [HB 2754](#) on domestic violence assistance in DHS Self Sufficiency offices is also scheduled for a work session this week.

[HB 2387](#) on contracting for Court Appointed Advocates (a 2020 bill) is also scheduled for a work session this week. [HB 3026](#) arranged for homeless persons to get identification with no fees. Important papers and records are often lost in the frequent moves.

[HB 2544 -1](#) on funding for Homeless Youth programs through the Department of Human Services passed and went on to Ways and Means. The League has been supportive of these shelter programs and submitted a letter.

The Department of Human Services Budget [SB 5529](#) has been scheduled through March and early April. The Divisions were heard separately with Public Testimony on March 30 and scheduled again on April 13.

Senate Human Services focused on food programs early in the session with bills on SNAP benefits and Double Up Food Bucks in [SB 555](#), which was referred to Ways and Means. [SB 265](#) and [273](#) are related to residential programs for children and training for staff. [SB 710 A](#) covers restraints and seclusion in DHS or OYA facilities. [SB 714](#) concerns

staffing ratios at senior memory care facilities. The bills are set for work sessions on April 6.

Mental Health bills in [SB 680](#), [682](#) and [686](#) were heard on 3-25. SB 682 hires an Adult Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator in the Oregon Health Authority. A work session on 3-25 sent the bill to Ways and Means. SB 680 establishes peer respite centers and SB 686 concerns rules for inpatient psychiatric care. Both are set for work sessions on April 8.

Earlier bills [SB 515](#) and [535](#) on sex trafficking reports were passed earlier on 3-25 and are scheduled for floor votes. Two more, [SB 698](#) on opioid treatment through OHA and [SB 718](#) on DHS refugee resettlement programs, are also set for work sessions on April 8 or subsequent days if set over.

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

Priority Bills with work sessions posted - League testimony submitted:

[SB778 and SB 718 are supported by Communities of Color Coalition](#)  
[SB 778 -1](#) Establishes Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement to implement and oversee statewide immigrant and refugee integration strategy. Directs Governor to appoint director of office. [Hearing was 3/30](#), Work [Session 4/6](#). [Fiscal \\$1M](#), [League Testimony](#)

[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 was 3/30](#) Work [Session 4/8](#). Fiscal \$4.3M, (requires \$600k for employment services). [League Testimony](#)



[HB 3230](#) Universal Legal Representation for persons in immigration matters. A number of [coalitions](#) support. ([General Fund \\$10M.](#)) [Hearing was 3/30](#) and [Work session 4/6](#), [League Testimony](#)

Following, no League testimony planned at this time:

[HB 3265](#) The Sanctuary Promise Act. [Public hearing 3/25](#), [Work Session 4/8](#) [Read the LWVOR and LWVUS 2020 immigration resolution.](#) [Supported by a number of coalitions including ROP and FairShotForALL](#)

[SB 569](#) Makes unlawful employment practice for employer to require employee or prospective employee to possess or present a valid driver's license as a condition of employment or continuation of employment. Requires employer to accept other forms of identification that are deemed acceptable for purposes of federal forms used to verify identification or employment authorization. Work Session was 3/16 Unanimous vote. Gelser, Patterson OLIS: 4/1 " Recommendation: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.) "

[HB 2169 -1](#) & [-3](#). Gov Brown: directs Racial Justice Council to study potential changes to criminal justice system, [PH 3/18](#), [work session 4/6](#)

[HB 3041 -1](#) 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 3/30](#) Unanimous due pass with [-1](#)

[SB 70 Work session held 2/22](#), in Joint 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 fiscal [\\$2M](#)



[SB398](#) Hate/Bias Crime – ‘Ban the Noose’, work session was 3/10 with partisan vote. 3/26 moved with Recommendation ‘do Pass’. [4/1 Senate vote 27-1](#). Moved to House.

[HB 2508 -6](#) work [session 3 /25](#), vote 9 -1, 2nd Reading . Adds Telemedicine to Oregon Health Authority. Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine. Modifies requirements for health benefit plan coverage of telemedicine. “...[Improves access in rural Oregon to Health professionals](#)..., Rep. Prusak, a Board Certified Registered Nurse and Family Nurse Practitioner, who believe that by extending parity for telehealth services, the state will “be able to reach, and extend access, to citizens in rural and urban areas with mobility issues...”

## Judiciary (Karen Nibler)

Senate Judiciary bills of interest in the legal system are [SB 48 -1](#) which recommends eliminating minimum bail with a pretrial release schedule. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission constructed a step system starting with release on personal recognizance. See the Oregon.gov.OCJC for more details.

[SB 72](#) clarifies that a provider can treat a dangerous persons against their will when committed to the Oregon Health Authority. [SB 187](#) defined when a mentally ill person can be taken into custody. Both bills passed.

[SB 176](#) comes from the Department of Justice to establish an elder abuse unit for prosecution of abuse in long term care, developmental disabilities and mental health facilities. This bill passed already too.

[SB 206](#) covers conditional release for psychiatric patients under the Psychiatric Security Review Board. The -1 amendment added the contact with the local mental health agency to determine whether supervision was available. The Board recommends release to community mental

health with local housing and services rather than extended stays in the state hospital. Work session next week on 4-5.

[SB 418](#) prohibits a peace officer from using deceit in the interrogation of a minor for an offense that would be a crime for an adult. No amendments were added and the bill is scheduled for a work session on 4-8.

[SB 755](#) on Ballot Measure 110 had a thorough vetting on April 1 by legal experts but none of the many amendments were adopted. It was held over for next week. Written testimony was submitted by many individuals as well as lobbyists and representatives from public agencies.

The House Judiciary passed several bills over the past two weeks. [HB 3115 -1](#) was the result of a work group on local homeless regulations, and local governments will continue to be responsible for local ordinances and services. The workgroup conclusion was that the cost of enforcement was higher than the cost of supportive housing.

Bills on policing passed [HB 2513 -5](#) on additional police training at the Department of Police Standards and Practices and [HB 2527 -4](#) on licensure of private security staff. Another bill, [HB 3145](#), which proposed a DPSST database on police discipline was not ready. [HB 3164 -2](#) was a clarification of the charge of interfering with a parole or probation officer but did not allow a charge for another offense on the same conduct.

[HB 3035 -3](#) proposed a Health Care pilot program at Coffee Creek women's prison by Oregon Health Authority health navigators. A Ways and Means referral was to make a funding decision for the OHA positions. [HB 2036 -1](#) which allows discharge from Probation and Parole Supervision for medical reasons passed on April 1.

[HB 3229 -1](#) was a follow-up on an Advisory Committee Study on Health Care in Jail facilities throughout the state. The Oregon Criminal Justice

Commission will continue to follow-up on jail conditions and health care services.

The Oregon Judicial Department Budget is scheduled for next week. Several bills will impact the OJD Budget. [HB 2177 -1](#) denied technology fee increases which would impact county courts and provision of services in courthouses.

[HB 2547 -1](#) to add judicial time for domestic relation cases passed and goes to Ways and Means. Expansion of Drug Court cases will also impact judicial time and staff resources.