

Social Policy

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Healthcare (Bill Walsh)

The beat goes on. The Senate (SHC) and House (HHC) Health Care Committees had full agendas this week and not enough time to hear from all those who signed up to testify.

The SHC held hearings on [SB 587](#) to license and apply rules and penalties to tobacco retailers; [SB 748](#) to attempt to dodge federal regulations that limit work hours to 8 hours per week for people with disabilities who are employed and need to keep their Medicaid benefits and related [SB 584](#), which would address Medicaid “spenddown” requirements; [SB 457](#) attempts to reform drug pricing, which brings out opposing sides of the issues; [SB 763](#) and [SB 764](#) address high drug prices and “pay & delay” practices, also debated; [SB 355-1](#) delays sunset for insurance payments for autism spectrum disorder; and [SB 358](#) tightens rules for behavioral health treatment interventions. [SB 567](#), which clarifies Crisis Care Guidelines, was carried over.

The SHC held Work Sessions on [SB 96](#), which defines “cannabinoids” for the Oregon Liquor commission; [SB 124](#) adds speech-language pathology to the State Board of Examiners; [SCR 3](#) remembers the many contributions of Rep. Mitch Greenlick; [SJR 12](#), his HOPE amendment (to the Oregon Constitution) declaring that health care is a human right and referring it to the 2022 ballot; and [SB 428](#), extension of the Universal Health Care Task Force to 2022 to complete its recommendations. All of the above passed the SHC.

The HHC held Work Sessions on [HB 2075](#), radiation devices license and fees; [HB 2074](#) prescription monitoring fees; [HB 2337](#) requiring collection of demographic data by state agencies and contractors; [HB 2348](#) requiring facilities to provide plant-based foods and drinks; [HB 2619](#) providing rules to license to practice genetic counseling; [HB 2078](#) repealing electronic credentialing for Pain Management Program; and [HB 2077](#) requiring reporting lead-based paint issues to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Hearings were conducted on [HB 2088](#), adding tribal traditional health workers as a category to health workers; [HB 2359](#) adding rules to work with interpreters and the registry; [HB 2044](#) allowing the Department of Consumer and Business Services to access All Payer All Claims database; [HB 2517](#) requiring Community Care Organizations (CCOs) to report requests for prior authorization, focusing on “Fail First” insurance practices; [HB 2977](#) funding an OHA dental director position; and [HB 2627](#) allowing dental hygienists to perform interim therapeutic restoration, or delay decay practices. [HB 2528](#) to allow hygienists a broader scope of services was carried over.

On tap for HHC next week: guns and gun safety.

Health and Human Services (Karen Nibler)

The House Human Services Committee members heard testimony on [HB 2544](#) which proposed \$4.4 million in homeless youth grants to the Department of Human Services. Formerly homeless youth testified as well as staff who worked in homeless youth programs. Both the

Democrat and Republican House leaders testified in support of the bill as well as former legislators, Cheri Helt and Alyssa Keny-Guyer.

The League supported this funding in the 2020 session and again this session. The Homeless Youth programs have been inadequately funded in comparison to the DHS child welfare programs. These children are not in the custody of the state but can live in a shelter program with the permission of parents or absence of parental support. The funding supports the shelter programs.

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard bills on the expunction of adult records in [SB 397](#) and juvenile records in [SB 575](#). In both cases the existence of records can influence eligibility for employment, college applications and housing. The adult records can be sealed if there is no person to person crime within 7 years. The Juvenile records are easier to clear if there has been no court involvement but there are records in police and juvenile agencies to be cleared. A workgroup of agency representatives was appointed and made recommendations. The bill has a -1 amendment and is still in process.

[SB 422](#) to eliminate juvenile court and probation fees was heard, but a new bill, [SB 817](#) will amend the entire Juvenile Code. There have been objections to Juvenile fees and fines, Court attorney costs, and child support payments for youth placed in the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority. The new bill eliminates all fees, payments for court appointed attorneys and child support for out of home placements. The code retains restitution payments to victims of juvenile offenses.

[SB 418](#) introduced by Sen Chris Gorsek questions forensic interview techniques with juveniles. The bill intends to avoid false confessions by juveniles who were intimidated by authorities. Experts in developmental psychology, legal practices and national innocence project testified in favor of this bill. The psychological development of teen brains supports this caution in interviewing teens.

House Judiciary bills heard this past week were [HB 2002](#), [HB 2912](#) and [HB 3096](#).

[HB 2912](#) asked to continue the Re-Membering Project at Coffee Creek which was authorized in 2019 legislation. The current bill asks to continue the trial period through 2021 – 2023. The Deschutes County LWV [sent a letter](#) based on a local position in support of extension of the project.

The Criminal Justice Commission funds this program and reported that the administering agency, Oregon Justice Resource Center, has met the grant requirements by filing reports and providing requested information. The agency hires 3 attorneys to provide civil legal services for this pilot program. The House Committee passed this bill unanimously on March 4.

[HB 3096](#) requests a Department of Corrections Study and a Gender Responsive Coordinator to assist with an assessment of the status of women at Coffee Creek. Prior information has shown a history of trauma, drug use and a lack of mental health treatment among inmates at Coffee Creek. The bill asks for a report due by 12-31-21.

[HB 2002](#), a Criminal Justice Reform bill, inspired testimony over two days. There is a wide gap between advocates for reform and police and corrections officers on the current system, so the bill will require amendments and negotiations.

Housing (Debbie Aiona and Nancy Donovan)

Regional Housing Needs Analysis: In 2019, the Legislature passed [HB 2003](#), requiring an analysis of regional housing needs to be presented to the Legislature. In addition to the analysis, HB 2003 requires local governments to craft Housing Production Strategies describing the actions they will take to meet their local residents' housing needs. According to the analysis, Oregon would have to produce 9,000 publicly subsidized units per year to meet the needs of Oregon's low-income

households. This would require a three-fold increase in the production of subsidized units.

[HB 2096](#): The House Committee on Housing held a work session on the Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit. This bill would increase the credit by \$9.4 million and make it more flexible by allowing the money to be paired with other development resources. There is a chronic shortage of housing for agricultural workers, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19 and wildfires.

[HB 2009](#): The House Committee on Revenue held a hearing on HB 2009 that would extend the foreclosure moratorium in Oregon until September 2021 for homeowners experiencing a loss in income due to the pandemic. It further would give homeowners the option to add their deferred payments to the end of the mortgage. The intent of this legislation is to keep households in stable housing until the effects of the pandemic have dissipated.

The House Committee on Housing accepted testimony on two bills related to housing, but of concern from a land use planning perspective.

- [HB 3154](#) would require that cities exclude from the Buildable Lands Inventory manufactured housing developments and multifamily dwellings with more than eight units. As several experts pointed out, not counting those acres in the inventory does not protect them from redevelopment. It could, however, demonstrate a need for urban growth boundary expansion, and threaten high value farm and forest land with potential development.
- [HB 3072](#) would require local jurisdictions at the request of a landowner to request an urban growth boundary expansion if the land was to be used for developing workforce housing and commercial development. This would bypass established urban growth boundary expansions that include a public process and could also threaten our high value farm and forest land.

[SB 282](#): The Senate Housing and Development Committee held a public hearing on SB 282. Amendments to the bill include protections for people who rent their homes. The proposed protections would take effect July 1, and would include a grace period for back rent and an extension of the ten day notice period for non-payment of rent evictions until February 2022; sealing of eviction records for evictions that happen during the emergency period; credit reporting protections; allowing people to double up if needed due to wildfires or COVID; and retaliation protections. This bill will stabilize renter households, ensuring that there is time for state and federal rent assistance to reach landlords and resolve back rent.

Gun Safety (Marge Easley)

A second hearing on the Charleston Loophole bill, [HB 2543](#), was held March 4 in House Judiciary to accommodate those who did not have a chance to testify at the first hearing. A work session has not yet been scheduled. The League supports the bill, which removes the loophole allowing the transfer of a firearm after three days if a background check is not completed.

The League will testify in support of the Safe Storage bill, [HB 2510](#), on March 11, 3:15, in the House Health Care Committee. Although most gun bills are heard in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the focus this time will be on the public health aspect of safe storage requirements, particularly in the areas of suicide prevention, domestic violence, and child access. These topics will certainly be addressed at an informational hearing to be held on March 10 in the same committee. The League testimony highlights the timeliness of this legislation, given the large increase in gun purchases during the COVID era.

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

[HB 3115](#) : [OPB Article 'Homeless Rights'](#)

Policy Committee Hearing March 9 - League testimony is planned.

Provides that local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness. Creates affirmative defense to charge of violating such local law that law is not objectively reasonable. Creates cause of action for person experiencing homelessness to challenge objective reasonableness of such local law. Authorizes court to award attorney fees to the prevailing plaintiff in such suit

Priority Bills - May have testimony

[HB 2167](#) : [Governor Kate Brown Calls on Legislature to Codify the Racial Justice Council Into State Law](#) Press Release. [I recommend you view Gov Brown's](#) 2/25 testimony on this Bill in the House Rules Committee. She defines this bill as one of the most pivotal pieces of legislation for this session which addresses structural racism.

It would require the Office of the Governor to study and make recommendations for state boards and commissions on payment of a per diem to members; provision of language access services and reimbursement for childcare during meetings; and permitting the appointing authority to disregard statutory membership requirements if requirements prevent an appointing authority from appointing members representing the diversity of Oregonians (More details and background [HERE](#))

[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. Declares emergency, effective on passage. Sponsors: Sen Jama, Wagner, Dembrow, Rep Campos, Meek, Pham, Ruiz.

[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. Chief sponsor: Senator Dembrow, Jama, Representative Campos Regular Sponsors: Senator Manning Jr, Representative Fahey, Nosse, Pham, Smith G, Wilde, Williams

[SB 569](#) Gelser, Patterson: Public hearing was 3 / 4. May have work session. Makes unlawful employment practice for employer to require employee or prospective employee to possess or present valid driver's license as condition of employment or continuation of employment.

Following, no testimony planned at this time.

[SJM 1](#) Children's Institute: Urges Congress to enact legislation implementing internal Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy prohibiting enforcement actions in sensitive locations.

[SB 389](#) Dembrow, Fredrick, Gelser: Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to award grants to eligible agencies to provide immigration-related services and supports, and education and outreach, to immigrant communities. Requires agencies that receive grants to report to department. Requires department to annually report to interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to immigration.

[HB 2161](#) See HB 2167, Hearing held [2/23](#) Relating to a Racial Justice Council; Directs office of Governor to study laws related to economic opportunity and provide results of study to appropriate interim committees of Legislative Assembly.

[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 definition of "sexual orientation" in ORS 174.100 and creates stand-alone definition of "gender identity" in ORS 174.100. ([work session was 3/1](#) in House Judiciary Cmt House Subcommittee On Civil Law). [-1 amendment](#) was passed and [bill moves to full committee](#).

[SJM 4 Hearing 3/10](#) Sen Fredrick: Urges Congress to enact legislation to begin process of implementing reparations for African Americans based on slavery and discrimination.

[SB 618 Hearing is 3/10](#). Sen Frederick Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to study methods of providing reparations for slavery to Black Oregonians and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.

[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 state.

Find these Bills in other Legislative Reports:

Education: [HB 2697](#) and [HB 2937](#). League Testimony posted, Related to Hate and bias behavior and symbols in schools. [HB 2496 Exemption](#) from non-resident tuition fees for certain Pacific Islander students - likely to pass.

NR & CE [SB 289 -1](#) replaces original bill – [relates to penalties having to do with bias crimes](#).

[SB 286](#) renames Environmental Justice Task Force as Environmental Justice Council. Establishes council within Department of Environmental Quality. Modifies membership and duties of council. Modifies definition of "natural resource agency." Directs council to develop cumulative impact analysis.

Criminal Justice

[HB 2169](#) Relating to a Racial Justice Council.

Housing and Homeless

[SB 291](#) [work session 3/9](#) Relating to a Racial Justice Council, directs office of the Governor, in consultation with Racial Justice Council's Housing and Homelessness Committee, to study laws related to housing and to provide results to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.