

BILLS WE'RE WATCHING

The Oregon Legislature's 2026 short session convenes February 2, 2026, and runs for 35 days. We will update this section as priority bills and budget actions emerge; please check back as the session begins and throughout February and early March.



FAVORABLE TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

HB 4071 | SB 1517

Recreation Liability Waivers

HB 4071 supports Oregon's economic competitiveness by restoring the ability for recreation businesses to use liability waivers, a widely used risk-management tool that helps operators remain viable, affordable, and insurable while continuing to offer outdoor and experiential activities. The Chamber has joined the Protect Oregon Recreation coalition in support of this broader fix, while continuing to monitor SB 1517, which applies liability protections too narrowly and leaves many recreation-based businesses facing the same barriers and uncertainty the legislation is intended to address. [Learn More.](#)

SB 1586

Oregon JOBS Act

This bill modernizes the Oregon JOBS framework to better support job-creating, traded-sector investment. SB 1586 expands and aligns key economic development tools, including incentives for advanced manufacturing and innovation, enhanced enterprise zone flexibility, improved coordination for large industrial sites, and increased transparency and predictability in state permitting processes. By addressing site readiness, investment certainty, and permitting timelines together, the bill helps Oregon compete more effectively for major private investment while supporting business retention and expansion across the state. [Learn More.](#)

HB 4084

Governor's Prosperity Roadmap

This bill supports Oregon's economic competitiveness by advancing a coordinated statewide strategy focused on site readiness, workforce alignment, and improved cross-agency collaboration to attract and retain private investment. While additional work is still needed to ensure faster, more predictable permitting outcomes, the Chamber supports the bill's core concept and its intent to better align state tools, agencies, and resources around long-term economic growth.

HB 4073

Regulatory Fiscal Impact and Transparency

This bill focuses on strengthening Oregon's regulatory process by requiring more rigorous fiscal and economic impact analysis of proposed administrative rules, with specific attention to costs and impacts on businesses and employers. By improving how agencies evaluate, document, and disclose the economic consequences of regulations before they are adopted, HB 4073 promotes more informed decision-making and helps reduce unintended regulatory burdens that can slow investment.

HB 4102

Expedited Regulatory Review at DEQ

This bill would allow businesses and project applicants to enter voluntary agreements with the Department of Environmental Quality to fund additional staff or authorized third-party support to expedite regulatory review and permitting timelines, without changing underlying environmental standards. The Chamber is monitoring this proposal for its potential to improve predictability and efficiency in the regulatory process.

HB 4108

Noncontiguous Land Annexation

This bill enables property owners of noncontiguous parcels within an acknowledged urban growth boundary to secure city annexation when they collectively petition and the land meets statutory criteria, expanding options for municipal service delivery and coordinated development. The Chamber supports this concept as it increases land use flexibility and can improve the supply of annexable land for housing and mixed-use projects, which in turn promotes economic growth and community investment.

SB 1566

Prevailing Wage Exemptions for Affordable Housing

This bill supports economic development by providing prevailing wage exemptions for qualifying affordable housing projects, helping reduce development costs and improve project feasibility. While supportive of these targeted exemptions, the Chamber continues to advocate for greater flexibility in prevailing wage requirements more broadly, particularly for large-scale economic development and job-creating projects where labor cost constraints can directly affect investment decisions, project viability, and Oregon's competitiveness. [Learn More.](#)



[CLICK ANY BILL](#) to see more information about that bill or to submit written testimony.

NOTE: you have 48 hours after the public hearing to submit written testimony.

UNFAVORABLE TO ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

HB 4148 | SB 1562

Transient Lodging Tax Diversion

These bills would weaken Oregon's economic competitiveness by allowing Transient Lodging Tax revenues to be diverted from their original, voter-supported purpose of tourism promotion and hospitality-related economic development into general government operations. Diluting this targeted investment undermines a proven job-creation and visitor-spending strategy, reducing long-term economic returns for local communities, which is why the Chamber has joined the statewide HOST coalition opposing these proposals. [Learn more](#).

HB 4134

Statewide Transient Lodging Tax Increase

This bill would increase the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, raising costs for visitors and the hospitality sector while further straining an industry that remains sensitive to price competitiveness and economic cycles. Increasing the tax burden on tourism risks reducing visitor demand and local spending, ultimately undermining a key driver of job creation and regional economic vitality, particularly in communities that rely heavily on visitor-based economies.

HB 4015

Federal Tax Code Disconnection

This bill would move Oregon away from alignment with the federal tax code, creating added complexity and uncertainty for employers and taxpayers and increasing compliance costs for businesses operating in the state. Of particular concern is the potential disconnection from federal provisions that incentivize capital investment, including business deductions that support equipment purchases, expansion, and job creation, which could discourage reinvestment and weaken Oregon's overall business climate.

HB 4098

Insurance Unlawful Trade Practices

This bill would expand the list of actions related to insurance that qualify as unlawful trade practices under Oregon law and authorize enhanced court remedies, increasing potential liability and enforcement exposure for insurers and businesses operating in the state. Broadening liability under the Unlawful Trade Practices Act creates greater

legal risk and cost for employers, which in turn can dampen investment, raise insurance premiums, and strain the business environment. [Learn more](#).

SB 1507

Retail Sales Tax Framework

This bill is intended to restructure Oregon's tax system by linking the future adoption of a statewide retail sales tax to reductions in certain income and business taxes. The Chamber supports thoughtful tax reform that improves stability and competitiveness, but remains concerned that the bill does not specify or guarantee the scope, permanence, or distribution of the promised tax reductions. As written, it contemplates a significant new tax without clearly defining how the overall tax burden on businesses and households would be reduced or rebalanced.

SB 1505

Home and Community-Based Services Workforce Standards Board

This bill would create a workforce standards board with authority to adopt minimum standards for compensation, training, benefits, and other workplace conditions for Oregon's home and long-term care industry. While the Chamber supports efforts to strengthen workforce stability, we are deeply concerned that assigning broad rulemaking authority over wages and working conditions to an appointed board sets a precedent for delegating core policy decisions away from elected representatives and could have implications for other sectors.

HB 4094

Paid Time Off Cash-Out Requirements

This bill would require employers to allow employees to cash out accrued paid time off under specified circumstances, reducing employer flexibility in how PTO policies are designed and managed. The Chamber is concerned that mandating PTO cash-outs interferes with employer-provided benefit structures, increases administrative and financial burdens, and limits the ability of businesses to tailor leave policies that balance workforce needs with operational realities.

SB 1511

Estate Tax "No Net Loss" Adjustment

This bill restructures Oregon's estate tax by increasing the exemption threshold while simultaneously raising rates to ensure no net revenue loss to the state. While the Chamber supports thoughtful adjustments to the estate tax, this approach concentrates the tax burden on a smaller group of estates, effectively offsetting and, in many cases, negating the benefit of a higher threshold and increasing the disincentive for long-term investment, business succession, and capital retention in Oregon.

HB 4089

Criminal Penalties for Wage and Hour Violations

This bill would expand Oregon's use of criminal penalties to enforce wage and hour requirements, shifting violations that are currently handled through civil or administrative processes into the criminal justice system. The Chamber is concerned that this approach would apply broadly, capturing technical or inadvertent violations in addition to intentional misconduct, increasing legal risk for employers and creating disproportionate consequences that do not align with the nature or severity of many workplace disputes.

SB 1541

Climate Superfund

This bill would impose retroactive financial liability on selected companies for historical greenhouse gas emissions and establish an ongoing cost-recovery program to fund climate-related projects and infrastructure. The Chamber is concerned that layering a superfund-style penalty on top of existing state climate programs that already require large emitters to pay into compliance and mitigation systems creates legal uncertainty, increases cumulative cost burdens, and undermines Oregon's economic competitiveness.