



Health Justice Recovery Alliance 2025 Legislative Assembly Weekly Report

Week Ending May 23rd, 2025

Capitol Climate

The legislative session just caught fire—politically, that is. What started as a routine policy season has morphed into a full-blown partisan inferno, with lawmakers bickering over wildfire policy, tax rebates, gun control legislation, and whether kids should be allowed to doomscroll in school.

At the center of the political fire is the contentious wildfire risk map. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill to repeal the map (unanimously), but House Democrats delayed a vote on the bill and punted it to the House Rules Committee, drawing sharp criticism from Republicans who argue the move is political and that Democrats are using the map as a bargaining chip to get Republicans to agree to using \$1 billion from the state kicker rebate to create a dedicated firefighting fund—an idea GOP lawmakers say undermines voter expectations about tax refunds.

Meanwhile, the state's transportation package took a dramatic turn this week when legislative leaders revised the plan to include a sweeping cap-and-trade program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This has déjà vu written all over it: Republicans already walked out over similar plans in 2019 and 2020, and the odds of a legislative repeat are rising like smoke.

And, wait for it...more déjà vu: Gun legislation. The current proposal would tighten background checks, raise the purchase age for certain firearms, and increase storage requirements. (Gun control legislation was one of the causes of the 2023 legislative session walk-outs.)

So, with just weeks left in the session, the Capitol is less a place of calm deliberation and more of a political brush fire. Between the budget battles, the above mentioned

policy fights lawmakers might need more than water to cool things down—they may need a fireline.

This Week in Review

Activity on relevant bills:

Committee Activity

Joint Addiction and Community Safety Response

5/21/25

[HB 3069](#), work session

Bill to move CJC grants into a “mega grant” and restructure the grant review process, including Justice Reinvestment grants and Deflection Program grants.

Rep. Kropf introduced and moved to adopt the -6 amendment, explaining the key elements: consolidation of the grant process for treatment courts, Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), and deflection programs into a single funding stream; restorative justice was removed from the public safety grant umbrella; a new funding formula for deflection was established, providing a base level of funding for all counties with adjustments based on program size. Changes to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) were also noted, adding members with lived experience and backgrounds in victim advocacy. Kropf clarified the bill does not reduce sentencing for repeat property offenses but removes the sunset clause from the original Justice Reinvestment legislation (2013 legislative action).

Rep. Mannix supported the amendment and recommended better defining “successful outcomes” — suggesting measures such as engagement in case management, substance use treatment, and overall life stability. He plans to submit a letter to the commission with further suggestions. Sen. Lieber supported the deflection grant formula and called for funding based on best practices. Speaker 4 emphasized quality over quantity in implementation. Kropf did clarify that the amendment was not *actually* requested by the Oregon District Attorneys Association (which is written on the amendment draft) and also acknowledged potential fiscal impact due to new police officer wellness funding (which if too problematic they will choose to not fund that portion this legislative session.)

Floor Activity

House Floor

5/19/25 11 AM

[SB 920](#), Third Reading

Would direct the Oregon State University Extension Service to oversee a project to accelerate the promotion of behavioral health in Oregon through community engagement.

The bill passed off the floor, only Rep. Yunker voted against the measure.

Senate Floor

5/21/25 11 AM

[HB 2013](#), Third Reading

Would include outpatient facilities that employ certified alcohol and drug counselors as providers for the purposes of mental health treatment insurance coverage.

The bill passed unanimously without discussion.

Legislative Meetings

Agency Committee Updates

The Week Ahead

Activity on relevant bills

Committees

Joint Addiction and Community Safety Response

5/28/25 5 PM

[SB 236](#), Work Session

HB 4002 technical fix bill.

[HB 2175](#), Public Hearing

Would create a crime for possessing, purchasing, manufacturing, or delivering pill presses and similar equipment used for producing counterfeit drugs. The offense would be a Class C felony with a potential five-year prison sentence and a \$125,000

fine. The bill also amends existing laws regarding counterfeit substances and expands penalties for crimes involving drug counterfeiting materials.

House Rules

5/29/25 3 PM

[HB 2006](#), Public Hearing

Would impose limits on the number of bills each legislator can introduce in a long legislative session.

Floor