

WEEKLY CAPITOL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022 Oregon State Legislature

Week ending February 25, 2022

Capitol Climate

Should we stop calling this Short Session and start calling it Campaign Session? It certainly seems like that's what we've been witness to over the last few weeks. From work session commentary to floor speeches legislators have not missed an opportunity to begin testing their campaign platforms and messaging, as evidenced by the very lengthy speeches legislators running for office are making.

In the neverending saga of masking in the Capitol, Senator Dallas Heard (R-SD 1) refused to wear a mask on the Senate floor, then refused to be escorted off the floor. He was subsequently expelled from the Capitol until he complies with the rules. It's anyone's guess when he comes back to work.

The Building felt like the Building, if at least a little, this week as many lobbyists returned to engage with legislators in last minute efforts to get bills past the Feb 24th deadline.

This week marked the 'beginning of the end' for the 2022 legislative session, sine die was "declared imminent" (11 days until constitutional sine die). This means that committee agendas and amendments only need to be posted with 1 hours notice (not the usual 24), causing a flurry of movement as committee agendas change regularly throughout a day. Policy committees and the subcommittees of Ways and Means (with the exception of Capitol Construction subcommittee and Senate/House Rules committee) closed up shop (stop holding hearings or work sessions on bills, with a large number of bills remaining to be worked on. Bills that were in the queue for a referral to a Ways and Means subcommittee are still, technically, "alive." Some of these will be referred to open committees (CapCon, Rules, Revenue), others will be placed as a single year funding line item in the "Christmas Tree" bill (an end of session spending bill that serves as a catch-all.)

Big things have happened this week:

- Future Ready Oregon, the \$200m workforce package moves forward. Advocates *did not* expect this proposal to be fully funded, but when you have \$2 billion, why not?!
- \$400m package for housing, another big ticket item after record investments in 2021. Housing is one of Oregon's biggest challenges, so while this has been a hard fought win, it's tremendously important.
- Governor Brown announced that the end of indoor mask mandates (for businesses and schools) would be moved up from March 31st to March 19th, as COVID cases continue to decline.

Committee activity on relevant bills this week:

On 2/23 (Wed) we learned that HB 4083 would not get a referral to the Human Services subcommittee. After a quick huddle with Rep. Prusak, Rep. Moore Green, and Rep. Hayden we determined we would amend 4083 into SB 1529A, a bill scheduled for a work session on House Health Care that same day. This required **extremely** fast work drafting of the amendment. This also meant the amendment, **unfortunately, had to remove the PCP assignment for open card patients because that portion created the fiscal on the original bill (private insurers and CCOs will still have to make assignments)**. The bill will now **go back** to Senate floor for a "concurrence vote" and then to House floor. At this moment, we are not concerned about this making it through but will keep you posted frequently.

House Committee on Health Care

2/21/2022 Public hearing and 2/23/2022 work session on [SB 1555](#): Specifies reimbursement that must be paid by insurers covering universal newborn nurse home visiting services. *In the public hearing, Sen Steiner Hayward and Rep Stark both gave background on the bill and spoke in support. Rep Prusak noted that it is an important and amazing bill and that they need to pass it and she's sure they will when they next meet. In the work session, the bill was moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation.*

2/21/2022 Public hearing and 2/23/2022 work session on [SB 1529 A](#): Applies the pharmacy benefit manager requirements established in HB 2185 (2019) to all contracts entered into, renewed, or extended on or after January 1, 2021, and contracts automatically renewed on or after January 1, 2023. SB 1529 A also allows the Oregon Health Authority to declare a health care emergency and to deploy SERV-OR volunteers. *In the work session, the -A9 was adopted and the bill was moved to the floor, as amended, with a do pass recommendation.*

Joint Ways and Means

2/21/2022 Human Services subcommittee work session and 2/23/2022 full committee work session on [SB 1554](#): Requires the Oregon Health Authority to study the efficacy of the state's response and identify recommendations for improvements to Oregon's public health system. *In the subcommittee work session, the -1 was adopted and the bill was moved to the full committee. In the full committee work session, the bill was reported out as amended with a do pass recommendation. Rep Stark shared that he is supportive of what the bill is asking for but was a no vote because he didn't want to give the extra money as it could be found elsewhere in the department's budget.*

2/21/2022 Human Services subcommittee work session and 2/23/2022 full committee work session on [HB 4052 B](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority to administer a pilot program to provide grants to establish culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units to serve priority populations. The measure also requires OHA and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to report to the legislature on recommendations for funding programs to address health inequities experienced by Black and indigenous communities, people of color, and members of tribes; requires OHA to administer a pilot program to provide grants to establish culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units to serve priority populations. *In the subcommittee work session, the -A2 was adopted and the bill was moved to the full committee. In the full committee work session, the bill was reported out as amended with a do pass recommendation.*

2/23/2022 Human Services subcommittee work session on [HB 4034 A](#): Updates and clarifies a number of laws, including expressly allowing implementation of the Reproductive Health Equity Act and laws related to deliver of health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. *In the subcommittee work session, the bill was moved to the full committee. Rep Stark was confused why the bill was in WAM, and (after conversation) became frustrated no one seemed to know why it was in WAM and if there were funds associated with the bill. Sen Knopp believes this bill will end up costing millions of dollars.*

2/25/2022 Capital Construction subcommittee work session on [HB 4035 A](#): Requires the Oregon Health Authority to develop plans for conducting Medicaid redeterminations and establish a bridge program to provide coverage to individuals who churn out of Medicaid eligibility due to income fluctuations.

House Committee on Revenue

2/22/2022 Work session on [HB 4002 A](#): Establishes maximum hour and overtime wage requirements for Oregon agricultural workers and uses a refundable tax credit to offset a percentage of the additional cost of overtime pay for agricultural employers. Maximum hours are phased in over five years starting at 55 hours in 2023 and reducing to 40 hours by 2027. The refundable tax credit for a portion of the additional cost of overtime is available for overtime wages paid through 2028 and is more generous for agriculture employers with the equivalent of 25 or less full-time employees. *In this work session, the bill was moved, without recommendation as to passage, to the committee on farm worker overtime.*

House Committee on Farm Worker Overtime

2/24/2022 Public hearing and work session on [HB 4002 A](#): Establishes maximum hour and overtime wage requirements for Oregon agricultural workers and uses a refundable tax credit to offset a

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percentage of the additional cost of overtime pay for agricultural employers. Maximum hours are phased in over five years starting at 55 hours in 2023 and reducing to 40 hours by 2027. The refundable tax credit for a portion of the additional cost of overtime is available for overtime wages paid through 2028 and is more generous for agriculture employers with the equivalent of 25 or less full-time employees. *In the work session, the -A12 was adopted and the bill was moved to the floor with a do pass recommendation.*

Senate Floor

2/22/2022 Third reading of [HB 4150](#): Requires Health Information Technology Oversight Council to convene one or more groups of stakeholders and experts to explore options to accelerate, support and improve secure, statewide community information exchanges. *Third reading. Carried by Sollman. Passed. Ayes, 20; Nays, 7--Findley, Gelser Blouin, Girod, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher, Thomsen; Absent, 1--Heard; Excused, 2--Boquist, Robinson. Speaker signed.*

Committee activity on relevant bills next week:

Senate Floor

2/28/2022 Third reading of [SB 1554 A](#): Requires the Oregon Health Authority to study the efficacy of the state's response and identify recommendations for improvements to Oregon's public health system.

House Floor

2/28/2022 Third Reading of [HB 4052 B](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority to administer a pilot program to provide grants to establish culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units to serve priority populations. The measure also requires OHA and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to report to the legislature on recommendations for funding programs to address health inequities experienced by Black and indigenous communities, people of color, and members of tribes; requires OHA to administer a pilot program to provide grants to establish culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units to serve priority populations.