

WEEKLY CAPITOL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022 Oregon State Legislature

Week ending March 4, 2022

Capitol Climate

To be honest, I don't even know what to write for this final "Week in The Capitol". It feels like nothing happened, but everything happened this last week. As I reflect I realize this isn't an uncommon feeling during a short session, but it's been 4 years since we've had a full short session. You all know that short session is a sprint and this year's sprint has been one of the biggest in a decade...with record revenue to spend, unusual mid-session (ARPA funds and huge state revenues), and a drive to address unfinished policy business from 2021 we're lucky we didn't run right up to the constitutional sine die.

Big things happened this session and we'll dive deep into those in our end of session reports but it's important, this final week, to note that the tone of the Capitol shifted significantly this week. It's not unusual, when we get closer to gaveling out that the tension dividing opponents and supporters remains but legislators seem to rise above that to show a camaraderie and gratitude for one another that we don't see much of during the session. For those of us observing, we wonder "could this be our normal instead? Must we wait until people see the end in sight for this collegiality and warm rapport to be present?"

This marks Senate President Courtney's last session, as he'll retire at the end of 2022. During Senate debate on the last policy bill he will chief co-sponsor (SB 1504, related to greyhound racing) his Senate colleagues rose to speak to the bill but mostly to praise his commitment to Oregon, his work to support Oregon's most vulnerable humans *and* animals over the decades of his career, and the snarky, stoic, but also comical way he's managed the Chamber.

In the end of session reports we'll dive into what passed/didn't this session, the big ticket items like Future Ready Oregon, Agricultural Worker Overtime, criminal justice reforms, and the record short session budget reconciliation bill.

Oregon legislature adjourned 2022 Sine die March 4, 11:58am.

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This Week and the Week Ahead

Committee activity on relevant bills this week:

Activity on relevant bills:

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

2/28/2022 Public hearing and work session in Subcommittee on Capital Construction and work session in the full committee on [HB 5202 A](#): Appropriates moneys from General Fund to specified state agencies and Emergency Board for biennial expenses.

House Floor

2/28/2022 Third reading of [HB 4052 B](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority, guided by advisory committee to be convened by authority, to provide grants to operate two culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units, as pilot program, to improve health outcomes of Oregonians impacted by racism (Rep Salinas priority bill). *Third reading. Carried by Patterson. Passed. Ayes, 22; Nays, 3--Findley, Linthicum, Thatcher; Absent, 2--Heard, Thomsen; Excused, 3--Boquist, Girod, Robinson. Passed primarily along party lines.*

3/1/2022 Third reading of [SB 1529 B](#): Allows Public Health Director to direct and deploy volunteer emergency health care providers under specified circumstances. Amendment on 2/23 put HB 4083 contents (minus PCP assignment for open card patients) into the bill. *Third reading. Carried by Prusak. Passed. Ayes, 53; Nays, 5--George, Goodwin, Morgan, Wallan, Zika; Excused, 1--Cate; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Boshart Davis. On the floor, Rep Prusak, Rep Moore Green and Rep Hayden all spoke in support - seemed to have bipartisan support.*

3/1/2022 Third reading of [HB 4002 B](#): 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. *Passed. Ayes, 37; Nays, 23--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, George, Goodwin, Hayden, Hieb, Levy, Lewis, Moore-Green, Morgan, Noble, Owens, Reschke, Scharf, Smith DB, Smith G, Stark, Wallan, Weber, Wright, Zika. The bill passed primarily along party lines after heavy debate. Republicans made a failed motion to move the bill to the Farm Worker Overtime committee. Many impassioned speeches were made on both sides - Democrats calling for equal protection for farm workers and Republicans warning of a loss of family farms with the bill's passage.*

3/1/2022 Third reading of [SB 1555](#): Specifies reimbursement that must be paid by insurers covering universal newborn nurse home visiting services. *Third reading. Carried by Stark. Passed. Ayes, 48; Nays, 9--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Cate, George, Hayden, Moore-Green, Morgan, Reschke, Wallan; Absent, 2--Hieb, Smith DB; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Speaker Rayfield. No debate.*

3/2/2022 Third reading of [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. *Third reading. Carried by Prusak. Passed. Ayes, 37; Nays, 22--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, George, Goodwin, Hayden, Hieb, Levy, Lewis, Moore-Green, Morgan, Noble, Owens, Reschke, Scharf, Smith DB, Smith G, Stark, Wallan, Weber, Wright; Excused, 1--Zika. No debate.*

3/2/2022 Third reading of [HB 4035 B](#): 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. *Third reading. Carried by Prusak. Passed. Ayes, 40; Nays, 19--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, George, Goodwin, Levy, Lewis, Moore-Green, Morgan, Noble, Owens, Reschke, Scharf, Smith DB, Stark, Wallan, Weber, Wright; Excused, 1--Zika. Of note during the debate - two representatives asked clarifying questions about the bill. One asked questions regarding CCOs, the other asked clarifying questions about the word 'intent' in specific sections. In support, Rep Prussak opened. A Rep asked questions and then spoke in support of the bill. Rep Hayden asked questions and then spoke in support of the bill. Rep Salinas spoke in support of the bill. In opposition, Rep Wallen believes the bill will increase the number of people on OHP and, therefore, cost the state money. She doesn't support the bill for this reason. Bill passed.*

3/3/2022 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. *Third reading. Carried by Hayden. Passed. Ayes, 53; Nays, 5--Bonham, Cate, Goodwin, Reschke, Stark; Excused, 1--Boshart Davis; Excused for Business of the House, 1--Smith DB. In support, Rep Hayden opened and Rep Evans shared why he believes this bill is important. In opposition, Rep Stark disagreed with putting money towards this, as he believes OHA should fund it.*

3/4/2022 Third reading of [HB 5202 A](#): Appropriates moneys from General Fund to specified state agencies and Emergency Board for biennial expenses. *Third reading. Carried by Sanchez. Passed. Ayes, 41; Nays, 16--Bonham, Bynum, Cate, George, Goodwin, Hayden, Lewis, Moore-Green, Morgan, Noble, Reschke, Smith DB, Stark, Wallan, Wilde, Wright; Excused, 3--Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Scharf.*

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. *Third reading. Carried by Steiner Hayward. Passed. Ayes, 17; Nays, 9--Anderson, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher, Thomsen; Absent, 1--Heard; Excused, 3--Boquist, Frederick, Robinson. On the floor, Sen Hayward and Sen Gelser Blouin spoke in support of the bill and discussed the need to have a more narrow research on how OR addressed the public health crisis. Sen Linthicum spoke in opposition, calling for a wider study of the impacts of the pandemic mandates on society and the economy. Bill passed along party lines.*

3/2/2022 Third reading of [HB 4052 B](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority, guided by advisory committee to be convened by authority, to provide grants to operate two culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units, as pilot program, to improve health outcomes of Oregonians impacted by racism. *Third reading. Carried by Patterson. Passed. Ayes, 22; Nays, 3--Findley, Linthicum, Thatcher; Absent, 2--Heard, Thomsen; Excused, 3--Boquist, Girod, Robinson. Bill passed somewhat along party lines with Sen Patterson and Sen Lieber speaking in support of the bill. They shared the significance of the bill in helping communities impacted by racism in the health care system. Sen Findley spoke in opposition because he sees health vans already in action in his community and opposes bringing OHA into the programs.*

3/3/2022 Third reading of [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. *Third reading. Carried by Lieber. Passed. Ayes, 18; Nays, 8--Anderson, Findley, Hansell, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher, Thomsen;*

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This Week and the Week Ahead

Absent, 1--Heard; Excused, 3--Boquist, Girod, Robinson. Sen Lieber carried the bill and shared that the bill does exactly what a technical fix bill is supposed to do. No debate.

3/3/2022 Third reading of [HB 4002 B](#): 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. *Third reading. Carried by Taylor, Courtney. Passed. Ayes, 17; Nays, 10--Anderson, Beyer, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher, Thomsen; Absent, 1--Heard; Excused, 2--Boquist, Robinson. The bill passed primarily along party lines after heavy debate in which a number of Senators spoke multiple times. This occurred so much that President Courtney began his speech noting that he had never presided over so much discussion. Republicans made two failed motions to move the bill to Rules and Finance and Revenue.*

3/3/2022 Third reading of [SB 1529 B](#): Allows Public Health Director to direct and deploy volunteer emergency health care providers under specified circumstances. Amendment on 2/23 put HB 4083 contents (minus PCP assignment for open card patients) into the bill. *Senate concurred in House amendments and repassed bill. Ayes, 18; Nays, 8--Anderson, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher; Absent, 2--Heard, Thomsen; Excused, 2--Boquist, Robinson. Sen Patterson carried and spoke in support of the bill, sharing that every dollar the state puts into prevention, we save five dollars. In opposition, Sen Linthicum shared that he appreciated the amendments that rid the bill of the emergency clause but still had issues with elements relating to insurance.*

3/3/2022 Third reading of [HB 4035 B](#): 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. *Rules suspended. Third reading. Carried by Steiner Hayward. Passed. Ayes, 18; Nays, 8--Anderson, Findley, Hansell, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Thatcher, Thomsen; Absent, 1--Heard; Excused, 3--Boquist, Girod, Robinson. No debate.*

3/4/2022 Third reading of [HB 5202 A](#): Appropriates moneys from General Fund to specified state agencies and Emergency Board for biennial expenses. *Third reading. Carried by Steiner*

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This Week and the Week Ahead

Hayward. Passed. Ayes, 23; Nays, 2--Linthicum, Thatcher; Absent, 2--Heard, Thomsen; Excused, 3--Boquist, Girod, Robinson.