

WEEKLY CAPITOL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022 Oregon State Legislature

Week ending February 4, 2022

Capitol Climate

And, we're off...the 2022 short legislative session started on February 1st with a lot less of a bang than, at least I, had expected. The Capitol building is open to the public, as it has been since July 2021, but seismic retrofitting construction is still underway (work that has been planned since 2017) and combined that COVID precautions means the building remains extremely quiet. (But do be prepared for newly installed metal detectors should you venture in this session.)

Don't worry, that doesn't mean drama is absent. This week's session start saw 2 brand new legislators: Rep. Travis Nelson, from HD 44 former Rep. Kotek's seat, and Rep. Nathan Sosa, from HD 30 former Rep. Sollman's seat. They join 4 other new House members and 3 new Senate members: Rep. Jessica George (R - HD 25); Rep. Christine Goodwin (R - HD 2); Rep. Chris Hoy (D - HD 21); Rep. Anna Scharf (R - HD 23) and ; Sen. Rachel Armitage (D - SD 16); Sen. Janeen Sollman (D - SD 15); Sen Akasha Lawrence Spence (D - SD 18).

Oh, don't let's forget that the House of Representatives has **ALL** new leadership. Rep. Vicki Breese Iverson has replaced Rep. Christine Drazan as House Minority Leader, while the Democrats have put in place: Rep. Dan Rayfield as Speaker of the House and Rep. Julie Fahey as House Majority Leader.

Is your head spinning yet? Well, if not I applaud you.

As a runner, a long distance runner, short session challenges my usual mantra and forces me to practice the opposite. Short session is: "A sprint. Definitely a sprint. Not a marathon. Most definitely not an ultramarathon." Go, run, pass that bill, now. Got it. Let me share further. We are subject to a number of deadlines that keep us in forward movement and also winnow down the legislation that might pass in a very tight timeline:

- 1st deadline is February **7th**: bill must be scheduled for a vote in committee.
- 2nd deadline is February **14th**: vote must be favorable in committee or bill dies.
- 3rd deadline is February **18th**: bill must be scheduled for a vote in other chamber committee
- 4th deadline is February **24th**: vote must be favorable in committee or bill dies.
- 5th deadline is March **7th**: it's all over.

Add to the tight timeline, the speed with which we need to move legislation, and the new leadership dynamics, we also have the lingering 2022 elections coloring the atmosphere. Will there be a piece of legislation (or many) that cause enough controversy as to send the whole session into a tailspin? I spy a few that may and we'll discuss those in more depth next week...let's see if they make it even close to the 2nd deadline.

Committee activity on relevant bills this week:

House Committee on Health Care

2/2/2022 Public hearing on [HB 4052](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide grants to operate two culturally and linguistically specific mobile health units, as pilot program, to serve priority populations with histories of poor health or social outcomes. Requires authority to study feasibility of expanding mobile health units statewide and to provide interim report on findings to Legislative Assembly.

2/2/2022 Public hearing on [HB 4083](#): Requires individual and group health insurance policies, health care service contractors, multiple employer welfare arrangements and state medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for at least three primary care visits annually in addition to one annual preventive primary care visit covered without cost-sharing.

House Committee on Human Services

2/1/2022 Public hearing on [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.

Senate Committee on Health Care

2/2/2022 Public hearing on [SB 1554](#): Directs Oregon Health Authority to study public health system response to COVID-19 pandemic. Requires reports to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to public health.

2/2/2022 Public hearing on [SB 1555](#): Requires health plans to reimburse the full cost to providers of home visiting services for newborns. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to adopt rules for coverage of services and reimbursement methodologies. Exempts the requirement that health plans cover newborn visits from automatic repeal.

Committee activity on relevant bills next week:

House Committee on Human Services

2/8/2022 Work session on [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.