

---

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Prepared for OAFP

May 23, 2021

**Revenue Forecast**

Oregon State Economist Mark McMullen put it simply, “The bottom line is that there is a whole lot more resources than we were in March... In fact, we’re looking at more than \$1 billion in resources in the current biennium as well as the next three to come we didn’t think we would have. That is quite a turnaround... We are now well above where we thought we would be even pre-pandemic.”

This has major implications for budget writing this session, as the May forecast in an odd number year, it is the number legislators use to write the budget for the biennium. An additional billion dollars increases budget writers’ ability to fund priorities this biennium.

What remains to be seen is how much of the windfall legislators are willing to spend. The State School Fund and the public pension system known as PERS continue to grow exponentially each biennium, and many are concerned about the state’s ability to cover those expenses in the coming biennia.

With just five weeks to go in the 2021 Legislative Session, all eyes are now on the state budget.

**HB 2958 – Pharmacy PEP and PrEP Prescribing**

The Senate Health Committee sent HB 2958 to the Senate floor. The bill would allow pharmacists to prescribe pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylactic antiretroviral drugs intended to reduce the likelihood of contracting HIV.

**HB 2648 – Over the Counter Pseudoephedrine**

This bill would remove the requirement that Oregonians have a prescription to get pseudoephedrine. Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene) asked for clarification about the bill’s language about “government-issued identification” required to purchase pseudoephedrine, saying he is concerned that it is too permissive. Most other states require a driver’s license.

The Senate Health Committee carried the work session over to Monday to clarify his question.

**SB 629 – Telepharmacy Services in Remote Areas**

“We love telemedicine and telepharmacy,” Chair Rachel Prusak (D-Tualatin) and Rep. Cedric Hayden (R-Roseburg) said as the House Health Committee unanimously passed SB 629 to the floor. The bill would allow telepharmacy services in remote parts of the state.

###