



Week ending June 2nd, 2023

Capitol Climate

Well we are wrapping up the 4th week of the Senate Republican walkout that has stalled activity on the Senate floor. Work continues as the Ways & Means, Rules and Revenue committees continue to move legislation forward with the hope of some action late in session (to, at least, pass state agency budgets and critical investment packages.)

With 224 bills stalled on the Senate floor due to the Republican walkout, we've been looking ahead to the future: What will the rest of the session look like? What will the summer look like? What about the rest of the year?

While we cannot predict the future here at EAP (although we like to try, using our trusty office Magic 8 Ball), we've built out a calendar of important dates between now and the 2024 May Primary Election, to help paint a picture of what's likely to come.

RIGHT NOW – FINAL BILLS AND BUDGETS

The Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means are proceeding with their work to prepare budgets, regardless of the walkout. Check out this resource from our friends at Mahonia Public Affairs: [2023-2025 Agency Budget Bill Tracker](#), if you want the latest status on those. So far, 11 agency budget bills have been signed into law, 28 are stuck in the Senate, and 46 are still in committee.

JUNE 25, 2023 – CONSTITUTIONAL SINE DIE

The biggest question of the session remains: what will happen before the session ends on June 25 (Constitutional Sine Die)?

In a [statement released on Tuesday](#), Senate Republican Leader Tim Knopp said that his full caucus will return to the building the morning of June 25 to pass what he described as “lawful, substantially bipartisan budgets and bills.”

Even with our trusty Magic 8 Ball, it's hard to imagine a political scenario that would allow for the passage of the remaining 73 budget bills — not to mention the growing list of policy bills — without the passage of several Democratic leadership priority bills. Even with a quorum present, it would require the approval of 20 Senators in order to move budget bills to the front of the line, bypassing the hundreds of other bills already in the queue. This seems unlikely, given the acrimonious nature in the Senate.

The Magic 8 Ball continues to tell us that the outlook is uncertain, so we're preparing for any and all potential outcomes.

JULY 1, 2023 – NEW BIENNIUM BEGINS

If the legislature cannot pass a final 2023-25 budget, Oregon will need to operate under a [continuing resolution](#) (CR). The CR expires on September 15, 2023. If we come to that, legislative leadership would need to negotiate terms for special session(s) in order to pass the budgets (and possibly the abandoned policy bills) from the 2023 session. Of course, much like now, special sessions require a quorum of legislators to be present.

AUGUST 30, 2023 – 3Q REVENUE FORECAST

The May revenue forecast relied on a new model to predict Oregon's future economic activity. If the legislature has to convene for a special session to pass a final budget, it's possible they'd want to use projections from the August forecast — this would provide some reassurances of the accuracy of the new model. However, this wouldn't give legislators much time to pass a budget before the CR runs out.

Committee Hearing Report outs

Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee

05/30/2023

Work Session

- [SB 1089](#), Relating to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board
 - The motion to adopt the LFO recommended –A2 amendment with Rep Mannix being supportive and Rep Gamba had concerns about how little funding was offered for initial staffing. LFO staff explained that another budget would be passed to increase staffing during the

next biennium. The motion to adopt the bill was met with opposition only from Rep Cate.

- Rep Gamba aired his concerns with the lack of funding, the motion passed 6-2, with Sen Hansell going across the party line to vote in favor of the motion as he agreed to be a courtesy yes before Sen Stiner stepped in.

Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee

05/31/2023

[SB 5525](#): Oregon Health Authority budget bill

[LFO Recommendation](#)

Motions: *Sen. Hayden absent

- The bill with LFO recommendation is on the way to full Ways and Means committee with a “do pass” recommendation on a party line vote.

General info:

- 7.4% increases in service level (\$2B increase) mostly due to inflation
- POP 201: 1115 Medicaid Waiver was included and funded
- POP 429 9-8-8 payer party
- KMPs over 20 were replaced this year to fit better within OHAs existing structure.

Budget Notes:

- Medicaid and Non-Medicaid Behavioral Health Appropriation The Oregon Health Authority shall take steps to separate the Health Systems -Programs appropriation into Medicaid and non-Medicaid appropriations prior to the Governor’s 2025-27 budget recommendation.

Questions/Comments:

- Goodwin is upset that immigrants and non-Oregonians could qualify for coverage under Healthier Oregon and Diehl is concerned about fraud. OHA is following up on fraud prevention information.
- Gelser Blouin is concerned about cost growth for CCOs, LFO shared there is a 6.3% inflation rate built into the budget.

- Diehl wants more information on how the ban on flavored tobacco would affect the OHA budget, requested more information on the Opioid Harm Reduction clearing house program and where the money would be spent (OHA shared the money will be spent on harm reductions measures not staffing or facilities), and shared his concerns/reason for voting no, were because we are underfunding behavioral health and not focusing on public safety concerns such as safely transitioning people out of the state hospital. He would like to see more money spent on prevention, more KMPs based on long term treatment, and a realistic forecast for Healthier Oregon.

Senate Health Care

05/31/2023

Informational Meeting

- Emerging Issues in Rural Health Policy,
 - It began with a presentation ([slides](#)) about Rural Health Challenges and Opportunities from a Policy and Economics Research Professor from a Brown School at Washington University where he focused on various rural health challenges, why the rural health systems stressed, and the ideal High Performance Health System for rural communities. His conclusion stated Rural America faces continuing challenges; but challenges more significant outside of the west due to the underlying changes in demography, economy and social determinants of health. He believes we need changes in the policy environment to improve affordability and create incentives for improved health.
 - After the presentation Sen Patterson asked about the % of bankruptcies due to medical debt being higher in rural areas than urban ones. Unfortunately he didn't have any particular study to give a definitive answer but with the higher costs and the higher poverty rate in rural counties he admitted that an assumption that rural communities face that issue more does make sense. Patterson also aired some further concerns she had with access and workforce availability with how it is even harder in rural communities to get the care they need. Lastly,

Patterson brought up the issues with social isolation and how tight knit faith communities were bridging that gap. The presenter went on to explain how important those communities can be not only to assist with social isolation but also to meet some of the more basic needs like food and some medical attention.

- The next presentation ([slides](#)) was an explainer on the Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH), particularly focusing on 3 questions/topics: who is the ORH (a program created in 1979 by the Oregon Legislature with 50 state offices that was relocated to OHSU 10 years later where they created the AHEC Program, began the rural provider tax credit, Allocated funds for ORH to do recruitment, and enabled ORH to work with the Legislature), what do they do (collect & disseminate information, provide technical assistance, coordinate rural health activities, & focus in on workforce recruitment and retention), & aging in rural Oregon (which is becoming quite the issue as Older adults will soon outnumber children under 18 for the first time ever, 57% of older adults in Oregon live in a rural place & Rural Oregon is aging faster than urban Oregon).
 - Sen Patterson wants Oregon to submit a plan making Oregon an age friendly state. She is also really appreciative for all the hard work ORH has done as a lot of other states who haven't put as much work into this are facing more dire issues.

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

06/01/2023

SB 490: Work session on SB 490 OAFP priority bill to fund ORCA-FM. An amendment to change the funding level from \$5m to \$1.5m was introduced and passed. Some confusion (from Rep. McIntire) occurred, she voted no because she is under the impression the funds are only to provide training to residents in maternal/reproductive health. We'll be speaking with her office to clarify that funds are for all aspects of family medicine residency training.

Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee

06/01/2023

[SB 972](#): Directs OHA to procure and administer a platform for the state's health insurance marketplace that is separate from the federal platform.

- The bill passed unanimously with minimal discussion and is on the way to Ways and Means with a “do pass” recommendation. Rep. Diehl requested information on if this will save the state money.

Joint Ways and Means

06/02/2023

[SB 1089 A](#): Relating to the Universal Health Plan Governance Board

- The bill passed on a party line vote with minimal discussion. Rep. Anderson was a No vote due to the fiscal.

Floor Activity

Nothing of interest was discussed.

Coalition Meeting Report

AHO Policy Check-In

05/31/2023

Nothing of interest was discussed.

The Week Ahead

Senate Floor

06/05/2023 10:30 AM

[SB 450](#): Removes the requirement that physicians and physician's assistant must note on the label of the drug the name of the patient, name and address of the physician, any cautionary statements, and the expiration date of the drug when dispensing a nasal spray for reversing opioid overdose.

Third Reading

[SB 968](#): Changes the release date for strategic plan update (done by System of Care Advisory Council) from every two years to four years.

Third Reading

[SB 1043](#): Requires hospitals, detoxification facilities, and residential treatment facilities to provide two doses of opioid overdose reversal medication to patients who are treated for opioid use disorder and who are discharged to an unlicensed setting.

Third Reading

Senate Floor

06/06/2023 10:30 AM

[SJR 33](#): Proposing amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to an enumeration of equal rights.

Third Reading

[SB 192](#): Directs PBMs to report with DCBS including aggregated dollar amounts of rebates, fees, price protection payments, and any other payments received by drug manufacturers.

Third Reading

[HB 2002](#): Reproductive health care and gender affirming care access bill.

Third Reading

[HB 2235](#): Requires OHA to convene a work group on barriers to behavioral health work force and retention.

Third Reading

[HB 2278](#): Authorizes pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine to persons six months of age or older.

Third Reading

[HB 2395](#): Dexter's fentanyl bill package

Third Reading

[HB 2486](#): Allows pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines.

Third Reading

[HB 2513](#): Rep Nosse's M 110 fixes bill.

Third Reading

[HB 2584](#): Adds physician assistants to practice of medicine provisions, including use of title and duty of care.

Third Reading

[HB 3008](#): Creates an exemption to the requirement (Section 6, chapter 37, Oregon Laws 2022) that at least three primary care visits be covered by health insurance plans without requiring copay, coinsurance, or deductible.

Third Reading

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

06/07/2023 8:00 AM

[HB 3396](#): Requires Oregon Health Authority to study access to health care in Oregon.

Work Session