



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 06-03

GOVERNOR'S TASKFORCE ON EQUALITY IN OREGON

Pursuant to my authority as Governor of the State of Oregon, find that:

Equal protection under the law is the cornerstone of a just and democratic society.

In order for Oregon to compete and succeed in the global economy, each Oregonian must be provided with the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and to contribute to the general welfare as an equal member of society. Discrimination of any type prevents Oregonians from enjoying the full pursuit of happiness to which all are entitled and prevents the State of Oregon from being the best it can be and from competing effectively in the world.

Anti-discrimination legislation that protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing and/or public accommodation has been adopted in at least seventeen states of the United States of America and in numerous countries around the world.

The citizens of Oregon deserve to have their government examine this issue carefully and to consider the need for legislation in Oregon to assure equal protection and opportunities for all. If statutory changes are warranted, then such changes must be brought before the next Legislative Assembly and given full consideration.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Governor's Taskforce on Equality (the "Taskforce") is established.
2. The Taskforce shall consider whether changes to the laws of the State of Oregon are needed in order to guarantee that all Oregonians are adequately protected from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and other opportunities regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As part of this analysis, the Taskforce shall review anti-discrimination legislation adopted by other states, as well as the proposals introduced during the 2005 session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. When considering legislation adopted by other states, the Taskforce should focus on the actual effects of adoption of such legislation, including any effects on business. The Taskforce shall review, analyze and recommend whatever changes to the laws of the State of Oregon that it considers necessary and appropriate.
3. The Taskforce shall also review, analyze and recommend changes to the laws and administrative rules of the State of Oregon in order to ensure that all levels of state government afford the same rights and privileges to all Oregonians regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and to ensure that Oregon law provides an appropriate legal pathway for grievance, enforcement and resolution if Oregonians experience unequal treatment or discrimination in either the public or private sectors.



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4. The Taskforce shall also review, analyze and recommend changes to the laws and administrative rules of the State of Oregon in order to ensure that all levels of state government afford the same rights and privileges to all Oregonians regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and to ensure that Oregon law provides an appropriate legal pathway for grievance, enforcement and resolution if Oregonians experience unequal treatment or discrimination in either the public or private sectors.
5. The Taskforce shall consist of between 8 and 12 members appointed by the Governor.
6. The Governor will appoint a chair of the Taskforce. The chair shall establish an agenda for the Taskforce, and provide leadership and direction for the Taskforce.
7. A quorum for Taskforce meetings shall consist of a majority of the appointed members. The Taskforce shall strive to operate by consensus; however, the Taskforce may approve measures and make recommendations based on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to the Taskforce.
8. The Taskforce shall provide a final report to the Governor's Office no later than December 1, 2006. The report shall include recommendations for changes to Oregon law that the Taskforce believes are warranted and shall include drafts of any such legislative changes for consideration by the 2007 Legislative Assembly.
9. The Taskforce shall be staffed by the Office of the Governor. If the Taskforce requires the assistance of any other executive branch agency of the State, then such agency shall provide such assistance to the Taskforce upon request.
9. The members of the Commission shall not be entitled to the reimbursement of expenses or to the per diem provided in ORS 292.495.
10. This Order expires on December 31, 2006.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 9th day of February, 2006.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE