

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 25, 2025

Agenda Item: 3b

Information

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Legislative Update

Presented by: Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager

Background:

The 2025 Legislative Session began on January 21, 2025. To date over 2,600 bills have been introduced. In addition to the potential proactive legislation described below, the agency will monitor legislation introduced for impacts to the agency and work through the Ways and Means process for approval of our biennial budget.

The following legislation was introduced on behalf of the agency:

HB 2922- Employee Address Disclosure

When OPRD enforcement officers report a crime, often it is their home address entered into the law enforcement system instead of their work address. Even when officers explicitly request work addresses be listed, their home address is provided in court records. This allows for criminal defendants to know personal information about our employees and routes important information about cases to individual employee homes instead of through the agency. This bill would allow OPRD employees to participate in an existing program within DMV that allows them to exchange their home address with their office address within the DMV system if they choose.

HB 2925- Ocean Shore Permitting

To improve ocean shore permitting processes, this bill proposes to address three of the outstanding difficulties within this program: a one-size fits all permit; unworkable timelines, and an inflexible fee structure. The bill aligns the OPRD permitting process with Department of State Lands by extending our timelines and adding more flexibility in the process to allow staff to work with applicants. It will also create a new category of permit for smaller less complicated projects and allow the agency to set fees in rule.

SB 838- Agency Efficiency

OPRD is unlike any other state agency given its role as a statewide recreation and heritage agency with significant frontline public service responsibilities. As an agency, we are taking a hard look at all our financials and businesses practices to improve efficiencies. Addressing needed changes in statute are critical to service we provide visitors and necessary for the stability of the agency. This bill addresses needed statutory changes to continue momentum for the agency by providing exemptions to purchasing and printing requirements.

Other legislation we are tracking includes:

[HB 2137](#) would require the agency provide free day use to all Oregonians, funded by a voluntary contribution of an additional \$38 when registering a vehicle. It has not had a hearing.

[HB 2232](#) transfers rulemaking authority for ATV sound levels from DEQ and certain off-road equipment from ODOT to OPRD. This bill is scheduled for a hearing on February 10 in the Joint Transportation committee.

[HB 3122](#) directs OPRD to enter into negotiations with the BLM over establishing a fee for use of the road at Lake Owyhee Reservoir. The bill calls for us to work with county and road district, along with the federal agencies to set the fee and plan for road maintenance and infrastructure needs. This bill has a hearing in the Joint Transportation committee on February 10.

[HB 3190](#) reauthorizes the special assessment for historic properties program but limits it to commercial properties. This bill had a hearing in the House Revenue committee at the end of January.

[HB 3209](#) increases RV registration fees and creates a fund for disposal of abandoned RVs. This bill has not yet had a hearing.

[SB 179](#) makes recreational immunity changes approved during the 2024 session permanent. Without legislation those changes would sunset. This bill has not had a hearing in Senate Judiciary Committee.

[SB 378](#) directs the state parks and recreation commission to adopt rules authorizing any Oregon resident over 65 to have free camping and day use access to state parks. This bill has not had a hearing in Senate Natural Resources Committee.

[SB 565](#) requires OPRD to study expanding campgrounds within 25 miles of the Oregon Coast. This bill has not yet had a hearing in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

[SB 929](#) would appropriate \$1 million in general fund and require the agency to dedicate up to \$1 million in lottery funding for the Oregon Coast Trail. This bill had a hearing in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee.

Prior Action by Commission: The Commission approved moving forward with 2025 Legislative Concepts in April 2024.

Action Requested: none

Attachments: none

Prepared by: Katie Gauthier