

2011 Key Policy House Votes

Accomplishments by Issue Area

Updated June 29, 2011

Children and Families

- Established “Keep Kids Safe” license plates, with proceeds dedicated to the Children’s Trust Fund of Oregon Foundation (HB 3250).*
- Improved Oregon’s “ALERT” program to ensure children have adequate access to immunizations (SB 107).
- Required Oregon DHS and county partners to implement Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs to provide family preservation and reunification child welfare services (SB 964).
- Created "Keep Kids Safe" registration license plates to support child abuse prevention programs (HB 3684).

Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Supported hydroelectric power by restricting additional regulations if a dam doesn’t change stream conditions or harm fish (HB 2873).*
- Offered Oregonians further relief from the state’s ethanol mandate by requiring wholesale gasoline dealers to offer gasoline containing 10 percent ethanol and gasoline with an octane rating of 91 or higher that’s not blended with ethanol (HB 3342).*
- Authorized the Oregon Business Commission to use revenue bonds to finance projects for electric energy generation, transmission, sale or distribution (SB 57).
- Allowed the public utility commission to help stabilize utility rates for Oregon consumers (SB 408).
- Authorized the Department of Forestry to enter into contracts to supply woody biomass from state forestlands as needed to facilitate development of projects, including bioenergy projects (SB 862).
- Excluded woody biomass and wood residue combusted as fuel from legal definitions that apply to solid waste regulation (HB 3687).*
- Extended and modified industry-supported forest products harvest taxes to help fund the Department of Forestry’s Forest Practices program, Service Forestry

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program and the Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University (HB 2124).

- Created a grant program to support the purchase of local foods for Oregon schools and educational activities related to Oregon agricultural products (HB 2800).

K-12 Education

- Funded schools first. The Legislature passed the 2011-13 K-12 budget in April for the first time since 1995. The budget is \$100 million more than what the Governor proposes and equal to what schools received in the previous biennium (SB 5552/SB 5553).
- Increased funding for schools over the 2011-13 legislatively-approved K-12 budget, and provided funding for rural schools and statewide agricultural extension programs (HB 5055).
- Allowed parents and their students to enroll in the school district of their choice, so long as the receiving district grants permission (HB 3681).
- Established the Oregon Education Investment Board that will oversee the process of recommending strategic outcome-based budgets for public education (SB 909).
- Raised the current enrollment caps on statewide virtual charter schools and replaced the caps with a limit of no more than three percent of students from any single district (HB 2301).
- Allowed districts to join together to form Career and Technical Education charter schools. (HB 3362).
- Allowed a charter school applicant to seek sponsorship from the Board of Education, a local community college, or a public university that chooses to participate if the applicant was initially rejected by a school district (HB 3645).
- Allowed school districts in four Education Service Districts (Baker, WESD, Multnomah and NWESD) to opt out and receive 90 percent of the funding allotted to the ESD for the share of the children serviced by the ESD (SB 250).
- Established the School District Collaboration Grant Program to provide funding for school districts to improve student achievement (SB 252).
- Established new goals on higher education, specifically that at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians have earned a bachelor's degree, 40 percent have earned an associate's degree, and that the remaining 20 percent or less of all adult Oregonians have earned a high school diploma by 2025 (SB 253).

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- Passed an education reform bill to give school districts more flexibility in hiring administrators. The bill eliminates a state mandate that takes dollars away from classroom instruction and will broaden the pool of talented, reform-minded administrators that will make schools more efficient and more effective in educating students (HB 3555).*
- Created the Educator Preparation Improvement Fund to improve the preparation of teachers and administrators (HB 3474).
- Required student assessments to be based on progress toward proficiency in continuum of knowledge and skills, in addition to meeting or exceeding academic content standards of a particular grade level (HB 2220).
- Required school districts to give at-risk students higher priority for participation in Oregon's Expanded Options Programs, which allows students to earn college credits while they're in high school (HB 3106).
- Authorized scholarships to students who demonstrate proficiency and excellence in foreign language (HB 2221).
- Relieved private K-12 schools from the mandate that they register with the Department of Education (SB 26).
- Reduced costs and unnecessary paperwork for school districts and the Department of Education (DOE) while still holding districts accountable through the continuous improvement planning process (SB 560).
- Eliminated 28 different mandates from state law, including outdated provisions relating to evaluations, reports, reporting requirements, filings, preparation and distribution of education laws, policies, curriculum requirements, assessments, and certifications (SB 800).
- Required Education Service Districts to prepare annual audits of books and accounts of district (SB 27).
- Established the Task Force on Accountable Schools to develop future legislation aimed at evaluating and improving student performance (HB 2289).
- Expanded finance mechanisms for public schools across the state to perform energy efficiency upgrades (HB 2960).
- Authorized Department of Education to initiate financial audits or performance audits of school districts or education service districts (HB 2280).

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- Directed the State Board of Education to adopt, no later than January 2012, core teaching standards to improve student academic growth and learning (SB 290).
- Established a Task Force on Instruction of Talented and Gifted Children for purpose of improving instruction and funding for these students (SB 330).

Higher Education

- Provided Oregon's university system greater authority and independence to manage their own affairs, operations and obligations (SB 242).
- Promoted greater civic literacy at Oregon's community colleges and universities (HB 3108).*
- Passed legislation fully implementing Measure 69 to authorize "lowest cost" bonding to support our community colleges and universities. (HB 3338)
- Passed the "Transfer Bill of Rights" to help community college students more easily transfer credits to universities (HB 3521).
- Allowed taxpayers to make direct deposit contributions of income tax refunds into Oregon 529 College Savings Network account (HB 2728).
- Created the Task Force on Higher Education Student and Institutional Success to analyze best practices and models for student and institutional success, to examine barriers, study methods for acquisition of basic skills and career preparations, and identify alternative funding options for community colleges and universities.

Government Reform

- Expanded Oregon's public records law to include electronic documents and other digitized records (HB 2244)
- Protected Oregonians who blow the whistle on government fraud and abuse extending confidentiality to any person making a call to the Government Waste Hotline. The bill provides that all documents, information, or other records following completion of an investigation are disclosable public records except for the identity of the reporter (HB 2246).
- Promoted information sharing among agencies to make it easier for these agencies to collect overpayments in food stamps, welfare programs, the Oregon Health Plan and employment-related day care (HB 2060).
- Promoted "e-government" and paperless transactions by making it easier for agencies to conduct routine electronic transactions. The bill will save taxpayer dollars by removing an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and reducing the use of paper (HB 2061).

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- Allowed Oregon to join the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact. The bill promotes affordability and consumer choice by streamlining the approval of new life insurance, annuities, disability insurance and long-term care insurance products in Oregon (HB 2095).
- Required the Employment Department to encourage volunteering by posting links for volunteering opportunities on state web sites (HB 2275).
- Required former legislators to wait at least a year before seeking and obtaining higher-paying positions in state agencies (HB 3446).*
- Directed state human services agencies to suspend medical assistance to prison inmates who are serving terms longer than a year (HB 3536).
- Repealed a prohibition-era law that outlaws homebrew competitions and the sharing of home brews among beer lovers (SB 444).
- Required State Treasurer to be subject to Oregon's Transparency Website requirements (HB 2788).
- Required state agencies to acknowledge audit findings and report to the Legislature on their progress towards fixing problems within agencies (HB 3291).
- Saved taxpayer dollars by requiring the Department of Administrative Services to reform reimbursement rates for state employees who use private vehicles for state business (SB 556).
- Increased transparency of the legislative process by requiring the Legislature to maintain reports of committee witnesses and post reports on its web site (SB 739).
- Required Department of Administrative Services to establish policies and procedures to make the state motor pool more cost-effective and efficient (HB 2854).
- Reauthorized the State and Local Government Efficiency Task Force to make recommendations to make government more efficient (HB 2855).
- Required state agencies with more than 100 employees to review its management-to-staff ratio, and to develop plans to achieve an 11-1 employee to management ration to save taxpayer dollars and promote government efficiency (HB 2020).
- Established a process to better integrate agency performance measures, benchmarks, and desired outcomes into the legislative budget- and policy-making process (HB 3528).

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- Directed the Department of Administrative Services and the Governor to submit an outcomes-based budget (SB 676).
- Established that new or increased agency fees adopted in one regular legislative session are rescinded after the next session unless the fees are authorized by legislation (HB 3487).
- Eliminated a special tax break for PERS retirees who leave Oregon and no longer pay Oregon income taxes (HB 2456).

Health Care

- Directed state government to develop a strategic plan for recruiting primary care physicians to Oregon (HB 2366).
- Passed an initiative to encourage family physicians to stay in Oregon, especially in rural communities (HB 2401).
- Created a loan forgiveness program for primary care practitioners within the Office of Rural Health (HB 2397).
- Established the Rural Medical Liability Stability Fund to provide payments to insurers to subsidize the cost of medical professional liability insurance premiums for certain health practitioners in underserved rural communities (SB 608).
- Allowed the Oregon Health Authority to establish pilot projects to provide dental health services to underserved Oregonians (SB 738).

Human Services

- Established the Oregon Integrated and Coordinated Health Care Delivery System, otherwise known as “Health Care Transformation,” to provide more efficient, community-based health care to people on the Oregon Health Plan (HB 3650).
- Under the recommendation of the Government Efficiency Task Force, required the Department of Human Services to coordinate with other state agencies to reduce administrative and resource burdens on human service providers (HB 2896).*
- Required the Oregon Health Authority to review rules for the purpose of eliminating excessive requirements and redundancies, and streamlining the process for delivering mental health and addiction treatment (SB 238).
- Codified provisions of the “Staley Agreement” to ensure that adults with developmental disabilities have adequate access to care (HB 2600)

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Jobs and Economy

- Upheld a commitment made by the Legislature to allow Oregon businesses and citizens to benefit from federal job creation tax benefits in 2011 (SB 301).
- Simplified Oregon's regulatory process by expediting permitting for linear facilities, which are or any railway, highway, road, pipeline, water or sewer line, communication line, overhead or underground electrical transmission or distribution line or similar facility (HB 2007).*
- Extended Oregon's successful enterprise zone program to 2025 (HB 3017).
- Passed the "Buy Oregon First" bill to allow state agencies to give preference to goods and services produced in Oregon when bidding out contracts (HB 3000).
- Authorized extended benefits for long-term unemployed Oregonians (SB 637).
- Gave greater flexibility to restaurant workers by allowing them to voluntarily waive their meal periods and earn more money (HB 2240).
- Ensured the lottery funds dedicated to Oregon counties are used for job-creation and economic development as intended (HB 3188).
- Removed layers of bureaucracy on Oregon's bakery businesses (HB 3189/HB 3334).
- Promoted the development of job-creating "guest ranches" in rural Oregon (HB 3465/HB 2753).
- Allowed the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay to own and operate a rail line in Lane and Coos Counties. The bill will help improve the economy in Southern Oregon (HB 3596).
- Established a "Business Ombudsman" to help small businesses navigate the state's bureaucracy and red tape (HB 2770).
- Required information about tax breaks for economic development projects to be included on the state's Transparency web site (HB 2825).
- Incorporated forest product industries into the green growth initiative, and instructed the Oregon Business Development Department to analyze growth factors and green jobs in forest product industries (HB 2840).
- Reduced home foreclosures by protecting homeowners engaged in "short sales" of their properties (HB 2916).

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- Reformed Oregon’s land use rules to allow larger Oregon wineries to operate restaurants (HB 3280).
- Approved a memorial urging the federal government to permit the testing of unmanned aircraft in remote Central Oregon. The designation would attract aerospace, aviation and manufacturing industries to the area, and would create thousands of well-paying jobs in the process (HJM 20).
- Increased the value of tools of the trade relating to a debtor’s ability to carry on their trade, occupation, or profession that can be retained in bankruptcy proceedings from \$3,000 to \$5,000 (SB 935).
- Urged the federal government to lessen restrictions on youth employment in forestry-related jobs (SJM 17).
- Assured necessary oversight of out-of-state banks that wish to open branches in Oregon (SB 92).
- Extended the sunset of the Task Force on Stage Two Business Development and Economic Gardening to January 2, 2016, and changed its name to the Grow Oregon Council. The bill also expands the council’s charges to include exploring opportunities for connecting market research and economic gardening service to capital access programs, as well as facilitating access of stage two, high-growth business to international markets (HB 2879).
- Extended sunset of the tax credit for affordable housing lenders from 2014 to 2020 (HB 2527).
- Provided tax relief to agricultural cooperatives that were subject to double-taxation under Measure 67 (HB 3058).
- Authorized Oregon Innovation Council to Make Grants and loans from the Oregon Innovation Fund to Oregon growth businesses that further innovation-based economic development in the state (HB 3507).
- Increased state protections for tenants living in homes that are under foreclosure (SB 491).
- Ensured that temporary restaurants, such as those at farmers markets and amateur sporting events, are allowed to operate under state law (HB 2868).
- Required state agencies to establish, maintain and operate a “One Stop Shop for Oregon Business” Internet portal (HB 3247).

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- Eliminated the sunset on provisions related to business development loans and entrepreneurial development loans (SB 494).
- Authorized the designation of regionally significant industrial areas and established the Economic Recovery Review Council. The council may expedite permitting of up to 10 industrial development projects of state significance per biennium through a review process (SB 766).
- Required Oregon Business Development Department to administer Oregon Business Retention and Expansion Program to lend incremental program tax revenues to certified employers (SB 219).
- Created the Oregon Employer Workforce Training Program and Oregon Youth Employment Program to help unemployed Oregonians gain workforce skills and increase the state's business competitiveness (SB 175).
- Created a new “Wine Country” license plate to promote Oregon’s wine industry and generate funds to help support wine and culinary tourism (SB 442).

Land Use

- Gave property owners, in certain circumstances, to request reconsideration of a Ballot Measure 49 claim (HB 3620).

Public Safety

- Required computer technicians to report child pornography on computers and other electronic devices they are servicing (HB 2463).
- Closed a loophole in Oregon’s anti-child pornography law to allow law enforcement to prosecute these sexual predators (HB 3323).
- Expanded the fight against metal theft by requiring nonprofit corporations to maintain metal purchase records and wait at least three days before offering a check payment for scrap metal (HB 2696).
- Toughened penalties against underage prostitution and sex trafficking (HB 2714).
- Protected women by prohibiting medical providers from performing, without prior consent, pelvic examinations while a patient is unconscious (HB 2908)
- Prohibited defendants in domestic violence and sexual assault cases from contacting victim while they are in custody (HB 2925).
- Made monetary and counseling benefits under the Crime Victim’s Compensation Program more accessible to victims (HB 3021).

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- Authorized law enforcement agencies to use forfeiture proceeds to fund drug treatment programs (HB 3151).
- Helped law enforcement better track the illegal possession, distribution and manufacture of hydrocodone, oxycodone and methadone (HB 2174).
- Required medical providers to report to law enforcement if they become aware a patient operating a vehicle in an accident tested positive for a controlled substance (HB 3085).
- Allowed district attorneys to prosecute sex offenders in their county if the county where the offense was committed can't be determined (HB 3126).*
- Strengthened right for crime victims by requiring prosecuting attorney to make a reasonable effort to consult with a victim before making a plea offer or entering into a final plea agreement. The bill also extends the right of victims to make a request to reconsider a release decision of a defendant (HB 2663).
- Required registered sex offenders to notify law enforcement authorities within 10 days of moving to Oregon for school or within 15 days of moving to Oregon for new employment (HB 3204).
- Allowed families of fallen public safety officers to continue to use confidential addresses for up to four years. The bill allows these families to heal and grieve without unwanted media and public attention (HB 3273).
- Allowed previously licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized health care providers to offer health care services during a declared emergency (SB 563).
- Assured that prison inmates pay their fair share when they cause damage to state property, as well as to pay for self-improvement programs and other services (HB 3285).
- Specified that knowingly aiding or facilitating the prostitution of children constitutes the crime of compelling prostitution (SB 425).
- Made crimes of involuntary servitude, trafficking in persons, and compelling prostitution subject to civil forfeiture (SB 430).
- Authorized court to terminate parent convicted of first or second degree rape with respect to a child conceived as a result of that crime (SB 522).
- Strengthened state law regarding child pornography possession to include knowingly accessing or viewing a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct (SB 803).

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- Established the Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice and creates the procedure for awarding the medal to families of officers who've died while performing duties or was killed because of employment as an officer (SB 976).
- Exempted records of individuals and their family members who seek assistance from domestic violence services providers from disclosure as public records (SB 347). *Conference
- Required certain employers to allow eligible employees to take unpaid leave to address issues arising from harassment (HB 3482).
- Required the district attorney of each county to organize a sexual assault response team to better respond to reports of assaults (SB 557).
- Directed the courts to require the installation of ignition interlock devices as a condition of DUII diversion agreements. (HB 3075)
- Increased fees paid by DUII offenders to help support the Intoxicated Driver Program (HB 2104).
- Increased the penalty for the crime of strangulation to a maximum of five years' imprisonment, \$125,000 or both (HB 2940).
- Directs the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain roadside memorial signs for police officers killed in the line of duty (HB 3039).
- Extended the sunset of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission that develops policies for the funding and effective delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services (HB 3110).

Second Amendment Rights

- Protected the identities of Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders by prohibiting government agencies from releasing information that identifies CHL holders and applicants (HB 2787/SB 347) *Conference
- Provided that gun can be carried on all-terrain vehicle if in locked container or has trigger lock that prevents discharge of firearm. (HB 2792-B).

Senior Citizens

- Toughened penalties against elder abuse (HB 2849)*, and created a task force to determine more effective ways to combat elder abuse (HB 2325).

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- Required that services provided through Oregon Project Independence include support for community caregivers, health promotion services, options counseling and transportation services (HB 3037).
- Required home health agencies to complete a criminal records check on any individual paid by the agency to provide home health services to the elderly and adults with developmental disabilities (HB 2650).
- Prevented abuse in the senior property tax deferral program to ensure it remains available to seniors who legitimately need property tax relief (HB 2543).
- Provided greater protections for holders of long-term care insurance by requiring prompt payments and internal and external review procedures of insurers (SB 88).
- Assured that low- or fixed-income seniors have access to the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program that makes telephone service more affordable and accessible (SB 143).

Veterans

- Strengthened state laws prohibiting employment discrimination against a service member for fulfilling their service obligation (HB 2241).
- Passed the “Funeral Civility Act” to protect families, especially those of fallen service members, from funeral protests (HB 3241).*
- Improved coordination among state agencies in providing reintegration services to returning veterans (HB 2403).
- Authorized voting via e-mail for Oregonians serving overseas (HB 3074).
- Authorized development of two additional Oregon Veterans Homes (HB 3208).
- Gave all veterans an opportunity to seek employment in government by requiring agencies to interview each veteran who applies for a civil service position and who has obtained, through military education or experience, skills that relate to the position (HB 3207).
- Established World War II Memorial Task Force to solicit private funding and arrange for the development, design and construction of memorial to honor WWII veterans (HB 3416).
- Helped returning veterans cope with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other service-related disorders by directing the Military Department to identify and address “military cultural barriers” to reintegration (HB 3500).

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- Prohibited the National Guard from placing or retaining a service member in a unit designated for active federal duty if the member had a sibling who was killed while serving on active duty in the military (HB 2019).
- Required community colleges and universities to give military recruitment equal footing with other types of employment recruitment on Oregon's campuses (HB 3336).
- Required state agencies to make reasonable efforts to determine whether a customer or client is a veteran, and for agencies to provide contact information and materials to shelters and other establishments that provide services to the homeless (SB 241).
- Expressed support for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs plan to end veteran homelessness and prevent future veteran homelessness (SJM 1).
- Urged Congress to fund mobile health care buses for women veterans (SJM 6).
- Encouraged the federal Veterans Health Administration to share expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other similar conditions with our private health care providers (SB 276).
- Ensured that all public employers are subject to the hiring and promotion preference for veterans and disabled veterans (SB 277).
- Removed red tape to authorize the construction of a new armory in Polk County (SB 535).
- Designated June 25 as Korean War Veterans Honor Day in Oregon (SB 951).
- Established a task force to assure that family members of fallen or disabled soldiers have access to tuition waivers at Oregon's community colleges (SB 338).
- Required that those submitting death certificate for deaths by suicide to make efforts to determine whether person was a military veteran and whether he or she served in combat (HB 3611).
- Directed Oregon's Adjutant General to form a commission to develop and name a medal to honor fallen military members from Oregon (HB 3658).
- Protected veterans, especially seniors living in nursing homes, from scam artists who seek money or other assets in exchange for performing dubious legal services (HB 3661).

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- Urged the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to ensure community health needs are met through the Roseburg VA Medical Center and encourages the establishment of a full Level II hospital in the Southern Oregon City (HJM 26).
- Required Community Colleges to develop standards to give credit for education and training obtained by Oregonians while serving in the military (SB 275).
- Directed the Director of Veterans' Affairs Department to establish a third Oregon Veterans' home in Roseburg (HB 2578).
- Required the Commissioner of Labor to notify Director of Veterans Affairs when information or complaint is filed regarding alleged violation of employment rights of militia members or discrimination against members of the uniformed military, if authorized by the members (HB 3668). *
- Established the Task Force on Military Families to educate the public about the needs of military families, and identifying resources to assist military families throughout the state (HB 3391).

Wildlife

- Protected rural Oregonians by directing the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to create a pilot program that allows people to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars (HB 2337).*
- Prohibited state agencies from closing public lands that are accessible to hunting, unless the closure is necessary for public safety or wildlife management purposes. The bill requires agencies to give 30-days notice of a hunting land closure to allow hunters to make alternate plans (HB 2875)
- Required State Fish and Wildlife Commission to make voter registration cards available where licenses, tags and permits are issued (HB 2998).*
- Allowed citizens to take a great wolf if the predator is threatening their lives or the lives of others (HB 3562).*
- Urged Congress to revise the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow for the management of sea lions and other marine predators of Salmon (HJM 17).*
- Required the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to Increase Hazing of sea lions, or pinnipeds, during specified periods (HB 3255).
- Required State Fish and Wildlife Commission and State Department of Fish and Wildlife to advise, consult, and cooperate with other state agencies, political subdivisions, other states, and the federal government and private landowners regarding fish and wildlife management (HB 3656). *

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- Directed the Fish and Wildlife Commission to revoke licenses, tags, and permits when person is convicted of a Class A misdemeanor relating to the taking or sale of threatened or endangered species (SB 924).
- Established the Wolf Depredation Compensation fund to support non-lethal mitigation techniques, as well as to provide compensation those who've suffered a loss or injury because of these predators (HB 3560).
- Reduced Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission nonresident commercial-fishing fees to no more than \$50 more than resident fees (HB 3657).
- Allowed hunters and fishermen to “check a box” and voluntarily contribute for predatory animal control in areas where they hunt and fish (HB 3636).

Women's Issues

- Required the Oregon Health Authority to explore ways to improve birth outcomes for at-risk women (HB 3311).
- Established Task Force on Oregon Curriculum and Training Standards for Performing Clinical Breast Examinations (SB 493).
- Expanded eligibility for medical assistance for low-income and uninsured women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer (SB 433).

To see the actual House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) --Go to: http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/

To see the history of the House Bills (HB) --Go to: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/pubs/hsemh.html>

To see the history of the Senate Bills (SB) --Go to: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/pubs/senmh.html>

***Denotes that bill did not receive final legislative approval by Sine Die.**