



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, July 14, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session Outcomes and Impacts

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The 2021 state legislative session came to a close on June 26 after more than five months of mostly virtual work. Staff and the County's lobbyist, Pac/West, will provide updates on the outcomes and impacts of priority legislation.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the County achieved many of its legislative priorities, including:

- *The Legislature also approved funding for two new circuit court judges for Deschutes County.*
- *Legislators approved a bill that will allow counties to authorize construction of accessory dwelling units on lands zoned for rural residential use.*

2,519 bills were introduced in the 2021 Legislative session. A brief summary of key bills that will have significant fiscal or operational impacts on County departments is available below. Additional updates will be provided by staff during the Board's meeting on July 14.

CLERK'S OFFICE:

- **HB 3291** - *If ballot mailed, extends date to be received by Clerk's office by seven days. Extends certification of election seven days. Moves quarterly election date from third Tuesday in September to fourth Tuesday in August. Allows county clerks to open and begin counting ballot upon receipt.*
- **SB 27** - *If approved by SOS, Clerk can use a different procedure rather than providing voter with secrecy envelope or secrecy sleeve.*
- **SB 250** - *Provides flexibility to adjust recording hours of operation to accommodate training and emergencies with limit of two closures per year.*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Will provide updates during the Board's July 14 meeting.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE:

- **SB 620** - Allows counties the discretion to not charge and collect probation fees. That bill passed the Senate without any opposition. However, the incredibly positive May revenue forecast, combined with the infusion of federal COVID relief funds, meant the legislature could entirely eliminate probation fees statewide with a \$10 million backfill to prevent service reduction. As a result, Senate Bill 620 was amended to remove the fees and Section 165 of House Bill 5006 provided the backfill.

For Adult P&P the loss of supervision fees is a decrease to revenue of \$180,000 but with the backfill there should not be any major impact.

- **HB 497** - Expands community correction services and funding to include certain misdemeanor domestic violence and sex crime misdemeanor cases. We knew this would likely pass but planned for it not coming through just in case with general fund transfer in. We will see what this additional revenue looks like for us and recalibrate from there.

- Overall significant community corrections baseline budget expansions through the Department of Corrections (DOC) budget bill, **HB 5004**. Full funding for JRI and other specialty programs occurred through the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) budget bill, **HB 5005**. We will see how/what shortfalls this will help with as we move through the next biennium.

DA's OFFICE:

- **SB 819** - Will result in the review of dozens of closed cases annually to assess whether the sentence that was ordered in the past should remain in place or be modified. This bill relates to petitions for conviction reconsideration.

FACILITIES: *The addition of two Circuit Court judges in Deschutes County will have impacts related to Courthouse expansion.*

HEALTH SERVICES:

- **Behavioral Health** provided the attached update from AOCMHP as a summary of bill that have a direct impact on their division.
- **Public Health**
 - **HB 5024 – OHA Budget bill:** Passed out of the House and Senate and is at the Governor's Office awaiting signature. The recommended budget includes \$45 million for the 2022-23 budget for OHA's public health modernization efforts. It was only a \$5M investment in the 2018-2019 biennium, and only \$15M in 2020-2021. This funding will largely support the work of local public health authorities, community-based organizations, and tribes to improve health outcomes in the

areas of communicable disease control, emergency preparedness and response, health equity, and environmental health. This will result in grant opportunities becoming available for local public health authorities in the target areas identified. It is unclear when modernization grant opportunities and funds will be released.

- **SB 587 – Statewide Tobacco Retail Licensure (TRL):** *Passed out of the House and Senate and is at the Governor's Office awaiting signature. It requires Oregon businesses to obtain an annual license issued by the Department of Revenue in order to sell tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes. The local public health authority has the option to administer and enforce the standards established by the state TRL law locally. The Department of Revenue will collect the fees and transfer the money to, the enforcing agency. The enforcement agency, either Oregon Health Authority or Deschutes County, will establish the fees, collect data, provide education to tobacco retailers, perform compliance inspections, and may enforce civil penalties on businesses that violate the law. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2022.*

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- **SB 762** will be discussed during the Board's July 14 meeting.

SOLID WASTE:

- Will provide updates during the Board's July 14 meeting.

VETERANS' SERVICES:

- **HB 5036** Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs budget passed which includes \$173,000 in pass through funds for the Deschutes County Veterans' Services Office.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Noted within department summaries, if applicable.

ATTENDANCE:

Department Heads, Whitney Hale, Communications Director, Phil Scheuers, Pac/West,