

## HB 3610 Task Force on Alcohol Pricing and Addiction Services

- Purpose and Roles
- Task Force Background HB 3610

(3) The task force shall study the following issues:

- (a) Alcohol addiction and alcohol addiction prevention;
- (b) The distribution of resources for alcohol addiction treatment;
- (c) The current overall funding for alcohol addiction treatment programs, including the levels of funding for programs by the state and local governments, existing metrics used to measure effectiveness of funding and of programs and the amount that community care organizations spend on alcohol addiction treatment;
- (d) The cost to this state of alcohol addiction;
- (e) The benefits and drawbacks of imposing taxes on malt beverages and wine; and
- (f) Additional funding options for alcohol addiction treatment, including modifying the current distribution of alcohol tax revenue and increasing taxes on alcohol, and the potential economic impact of tax increases on relevant industries.

(4) The task force shall consult with the Legislative Revenue Officer in studying the issues described in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) The task force may adopt rules to carry out its responsibilities.

(6) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(7) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(8) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(9) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(10) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(11) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(12) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2024.

(13) The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission shall provide staff support to the task force.

(14) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

(15) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

(16) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

**Background:** Oregon is among the 18 jurisdictions that control the sale of distilled spirits and, in some cases, exercise control over retail sales for off-premises consumption through designated agents. Control jurisdictions represent approximately 25% of the nation's population and account for roughly 23% of distilled spirit sales and a significantly smaller percentage of beer and wine sales. NABCA, the trade association that represents control systems, reported that there is no legal definition in state or federal of the control system because no two systems are alike and that is by design pursuant to the 21st Amendment. The Oregon Liquor Control Act (Act) followed the repeal of the 18th Amendment 1933 and soon thereafter, the Legislative Assembly held a special session that created the OLCC. The Act (ORS 471.030):

- (1) gave the state exclusive rights to sell distilled spirits and fortified wine;
- (2) authorized the OLCC to license private businesses to sell beer and table wine (less than 17 percent alcohol) by the bottle and the glass; and
- (3) authorized the collection of taxes for operating a business that sells beer and wine.
- (4) The statutory purpose of the Liquor Control Act is to:
  - a. Prevent the recurrence of abuses associated with saloons or resorts for the consumption of alcoholic beverages.
  - b. Eliminate the evils of unlicensed and unlawful manufacture, sale, and disposal of such beverages and to promote temperance in the use and consumption of alcoholic beverages; and
  - c. Protect the safety, welfare, health, peace, and morals of the people of the state.

The control system is consistent with the OLCC's mission statement to support businesses, public safety, and community livability through education and the enforcement of liquor and marijuana laws.

**Legislative Policy Research Office (LPRO) Recent Alcoholic Beverage Industry Legislation:**

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lpro/Publications/Background-Brief-Recent-Alcoholic-Beverage-Industry-Legislation.pdf>

**LPRO Report on Alcohol Regulation:**

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lpro/Publications/Background-Brief-Alcohol-Regulation.pdf>