

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 23, 2023

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Agenda Item: 3c **Information**

Public Comment Allowed: **Yes**

Topic: **Legislative Update**

Presented by: **Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager**

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### **Background:**

The 82nd Legislative Session began on January 17, 2023 with legislators and the Governor sworn into office a week earlier. As of February 2, over 2,100 bills have been introduced. OPRD staff are monitoring approximately 200 bills that may have an impact or connection to the agency. This session includes many new legislators and the opportunity to meet in person for the first time in a number of years. Construction at the capitol has made legislative visits and committee hearings more difficult. As requested by the Governor's office, as an agency, we currently have no position on any legislation, but do provide information on background and potential impacts to legislators. As the session progresses, we may work with Governor's office and other state agencies to coordinate positions for specific bills.

Due to changes during the transition between governors, the three agency bills drafted earlier this summer have not yet been introduced; however, we anticipate them being introduced soon with the support of a legislator or committee. Those include two bills, that have been introduced in prior sessions to address ATV concerns. The first would expand the requirement for safety education cards to drivers of Class IV (side-by-side) ATVs and Class II (sand rails) ATVs that are not street legal. Safety education cards are currently required for most other types of ATV operators. This bill is intended to provide information to the many new owners of ATVs who often do not know the rules or hazards associated with ATV use in the woods or dunes. The second ATV bill would change the definition of class IV (side-by-sides) ATVs to eliminate wheel size and add engine sizes of 1,000 cc or less. This bill would also remove requirements for windshield wipers on ATVs, but require that windshields remain unobstructed. ATV program staff have been very involved in developing these bills and can share more details about their importance.

The final proactive agency bill would adjust commission membership to reflect changes in the congressional districts after the last census. With Oregon now having six congressional districts, the proposed bill would have a commissioner from each of the six congressional districts and one additional commissioner. Within the seven members of the commission at least one would need to be from eastern Oregon and one from the coast.

While additional legislation is still being introduced, a few bills of interest include:

**HB 2011** would make intentionally causing physical injury to a park and recreation employee performing official duties a third-degree assault. This includes all city, county, special district, state or tribal park and recreation employees. This bill is sponsored by a number of legislators at the request of Oregon Parks and Recreation Association.

**HB 2079** requires the Legislative Revenue Office to study implementing a tax credit and direct grant program to encourage preservation of historic properties. The report would be due no later than 9/15/2024. This bill is at the request of the House Interim Committee on Revenue

**HB 2191/SB 679** would provide \$1 million in general funds for the Oregon Coast Trail. This would be new funding to continue development of the trail. Senators Brock Smith, Knopp and Representative Wright are sponsors of either the house or senate bill.

**HB 2737** would allow state agencies to transfer properties to federally-recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Sanchez, allows for the transfer, sale, lease, exchange or donation of property from state agencies to the nine federally-recognized tribes. This bill had a hearing that included testimony from OPRD and DAS.

**SB 76** would add \$3 million in general funds to OPRD for a one-time grant program for capital improvements and repairs of history museums. This bill is sponsored by Senator Thatcher at the request of Representative Mannix.

**SB 120** establishes an Oregon Labor Monument on the grounds of the State Capitol State Park. This bill is sponsored by Senator Gorsek.

**SB 149** extends the sunset for the historic property special assessment program for six years. This bill is at the request of the Senate Interim Committee on Finance and Revenue.

**Prior Action by Commission:** Approved moving agency legislation forward in April 2022.

**Action Requested:** none, information only

**Attachments:** none

**Prepared by:** Katie Gauthier