

*Representative Tiffany Mitchell has provided this list of bills which have become law in 2020 after having been enacted in the 2019 OR legislative session. Thank you, Rep. Mitchell.*

*This is her message.*

## New Year, New Laws

Happy New Year! As we enter into a new decade, I hope everyone in District 32 is as hopeful as I am that we can move forward productively in a way that benefits everyone who lives in our beautiful section of Oregon. We live in ever more divisive times, and with some big challenges ahead. That said, I will continue to be optimistic in facing those challenges head on. I hope I can count on you all to share your thoughts and views on what solutions we might seek together as a state.

Though we will have our focus on what's ahead in the new year, it's equally important to keep in mind the progress we have made. The Oregon Legislature passed many pieces of legislation into law last year--and so I wanted to give you a sample of some of the things that we passed (many of which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020!):

**HB 3427** also known as the "Student Success Act" dedicates over \$1 billion per year to early childhood and K-12 education to help Oregon schools confront their many diverse challenges. This will ensure millions of extra dollars for our students in HD 32. Communities will have direct input into how the money is spent, so please contact your local school districts to find out how you can make your voice heard!

**SB 3** allows community colleges to offer four-year bachelor's degrees. The bill will expand opportunities for students in Oregon's 17 community colleges – many of which operate in the most rural reaches of the state. This is a great opportunity for Clatsop and Tillamook Bay Community College to be able to serve more students in a way that allows our kids to get their education right here at home.

**HB 2005** sets up a system for paid family leave insurance so Oregon workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or sick family member, or to recover from a serious illness or domestic violence. The leave would be paid for by a state insurance fund that employers and employees contribute less than 1% of their paycheck to, similar to worker's compensation. Employers with fewer than 25 employees will not have to pay into the fund, but their employees will still be eligible for the leave. The state will begin collecting funds in 2022, and employees will be able to begin collecting benefits in 2023.

**SB 861** provides for prepaid postage on ballots, allowing Oregonians to vote by mail without paying for a stamp starting in 2020. Though it seems like a little change, this an important step in increasing voter turnout.

**SB 608** caps annual rent increases at 7% plus the change in the consumer price index (this year about 3%). The bill also prohibits landlords from evicting month-to-month renters without cause after 12 months of residency.

**HB 2015** allows every Oregonian, regardless of their immigration or ability to locate certain documents, like a birth certificate to obtain driver's licenses. Those who are unable to provide documentation of citizenship will not be added to the voter rolls.

**HB 2509** bans stores and restaurants from providing single-use plastic bags at checkout, and requires them to charge at least five cents per bag if they provide paper or other alternatives, beginning in 2020. Important: If you are on WIC or SNAP, you are exempt from the fee. If you are asked to pay for a paper bag and you participate in these programs, please notify my office.

**SB 90** prohibits restaurants from giving customers single-use plastic straws unless the customer specifically requests one. Drive-thru window operators may also still offer single-use plastic straws to customers.

**SB 256** prohibits the production of oil, gas or sulfur in the Oregon territorial sea. The "territorial sea" is defined in statute as the waters and seabed extending three geographical miles seaward from the coastline in conformance with federal law.

**SB 420** allows a person to apply to set aside convictions for marijuana possession, delivery and manufacture if conduct upon which conviction was based is no longer a crime.

**SB 9** allows pharmacists to prescribe emergency refills of insulin and related supplies instead of requiring patients who run out to wait for their doctor's office to open to get a new prescription.

**HB 2393** strengthens Oregon's "revenge porn" laws by making it a crime to distribute intimate photos or videos of a person without their consent. Previously the law only covered posting such content to a website, but now includes other methods of electronic dissemination such as text message, email and apps. It allows victims to sue for up to \$5,000 in damages.

**SB 485** requires the Oregon Health Authority to work with education entities on a plan to responding to youth suicides. According to the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregonians ages 10 to 24.

**SB 998** allows bicyclists to yield, rather than come to a full stop, at stop signs and traffic signals.

**SB 69** requires the Public Utility Commission to establish a plan to provide low-income Oregonians assistance for accessing broadband internet services. To qualify, a family must demonstrate its income or participate in government assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

**SB 870** adds Oregon to the National Popular Vote Compact. States belonging to the compact agree to award their electoral college votes to the winner of the national popular vote. The compact will take

effect once states representing 270 electoral college votes join. Oregon brings the total to 196 votes. I'm particularly proud to have supported this bill and even "carried" it on the House floor. Once the country hits 270 electoral votes in the compact--every person's vote in District 32 for president will matter, regardless of where you live.

**HB 3216** allows you to sue a person who "summons a police officer" as a way to discriminate, harass, embarrass, or infringe on your rights or expel you from a place where you are lawfully located. As many people may know, this bill came out of the experience of Representative Janelle Bynum, who had law enforcement summoned to question her when she was simply knocking on doors in 2018. Her experience highlights the implicit bias still present in our country and state against people of color. Supporting this bill will hopefully go a long way to helping reverse the unfair targeting of minorities.

**SB 665** permits school districts to adopt rules to allow trained school personnel to administer naloxone and similar medications if a student or other individual overdoses on opioids at school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored activity. Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. In 2016, there were 312 opioid-related overdose deaths in Oregon. As many might remember from a past newsletter--this bill was actually proposed by an HD 32 constituent!

To learn more about these bills, visit the [Oregon Legislative Information System](#). Select the 2019 Legislative Session and then search for bills by number, key words, or sponsor.