



## Legislative Session Grinds to a Halt as Republicans Walkout; Legislative Priorities in Jeopardy

Following a committee hearing that moved a carbon cap and trade bill to the Senate floor, both the Senate and House Republicans have opted to walkout, denying the constitutionally required quorum for the legislature to conduct business.

Prior to the walkout, both of OHCA's priority bills, House Bill 1526 and House Bill 4016, were heading toward passage with House Bill 1526 having already passed in the Senate and House Bill 4016 voted out of the Rules Committee last Friday. However, if Republicans continue to deny a quorum through the end of the session, then neither bill can pass this session.

OHCA expects to have no further updates by Friday and will not be sending out another Legislative Alert this week.

**House Bill 4016: Uniform Care Standards and EMS Innovation Pilot Project**

This fall, OHCA led a campaign in McMinnville to repeal a city ordinance that imposed fees, fines, and taxes on long term care providers. Following a strong victory in that election, OHCA is seeking to enact a state law that would prevent similar actions by other local governments. House Bill 4016 was successfully amended by the House Rules Committee last Friday following testimony from OHCA's Phil Bentley and referred to the budget committee for further action. The bill can be approved by the budget committee with only Democrats in attendance; however, without Republicans providing a quorum in the House and Senate, no further action can be taken.

### **Senate Bill 1526: Administrator Licensing Fix**

Senate Bill 1526 provides the Oregon Health Authority's Health Licensing Office with flexibility in determining how newly licensed ALF/RCF administrators can demonstrate they meet the educational requirement for the position. The current interpretation is that prospective licensees would need to provide physical copies of their high school diplomas in order to fulfill the requirement. As the walkouts commenced, Senate Bill 1526 was only 8 bills away from being voted on by the House – its last stop in the legislative process before heading to the Governor. Like all other bills, no further action can be taken without a quorum.

### **How Does This Session End?**

During the 2019 session, the Senate Republicans walked out twice to deny a quorum. Once on the commercial activity tax bill and another time on the cap and trade bill. In both instances, they returned to the Capitol after receiving concessions from Democratic leadership. This session, both House and Senate Republicans have walked out and Democrats are saying they are no longer willing to negotiate to secure Republican attendance in the Capitol. Therefore, as of today, it is unclear how the remaining two weeks of this session will end. We will certainly keep you posted.

### **Contact OHCA with Questions**

Please contact OHCA's [Phil Bentley](#) or [Chris Madden](#) with any questions.



#### **OHCA**

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