



New web page to provide up-to-date information and resources

Stay up to date and access useful resources during the upcoming legislative session by visiting our new [Legislative Session](#) web page. Check back often for new and updated information.



Gov. Kate Brown is sworn into office and outlines her priorities

Gov. Kate Brown and elected members were sworn on Monday, Jan. 14, during Legislative Organizational Days and committee membership was announced. Gov. Brown emphasized several priorities during her inaugural address including:

- Passing a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Raising at least \$2 billion in business taxes to support education.

- Passing a \$700 million tax package to fund Oregon's Medicaid program.
- Giving schools \$100 million to offset their PERS contributions.
- Spending \$400 million on affordable housing.

View more details about Gov. Brown's [proposed budget and agenda](#).

First look at upcoming fiscal and tax legislation

While the 2019 legislative session does not officially start until next Tuesday, bills were introduced on Monday, January 14. Already, nearly 200 tax bills have been introduced.



Mike Stober will be tracking the tax and finance policy for OBI. Mike comes to us with over a decade of tax and fiscal policy experience, most recently as legislative director and tax policy advisor to U.S. Representative Erik Paulsen (R-Minn). Mike will be reaching out to members to discuss the policy implications of tax legislation.

[Click here](#) to read more about the big tax and finance policy issues we anticipate for the 2019 session.

First look at healthcare legislation

Every year, hundreds of bills impacting healthcare practices and policy are introduced. This year is no exception. To date, OBI is tracking 170 bills that may impact healthcare. As the session progresses we will be providing OBI members with regular updates. For now, we just wanted to highlight one proposed policy change. Two bills relating to damage caps were introduced this week. [HB 2255](#), introduced at the Governor's request, removes caps on noneconomic damages for all injuries other than wrongful death. [SB 592](#) entirely repeals the cap on noneconomic damages.

First look at education legislation

With all the effort around the Joint Committee for Student Success and the focus on education in general, this will be a policy area that will receive a great deal of attention over the next six months. OBI will provide regular updates to OBI members. For now, we want to highlight some proposed changes to teacher collective bargaining rights

[HB 2580](#) and [HB 2526](#) both change the law to make class size a mandatory subject of bargaining for public schools. [SB 217](#) modifies existing law to encourage the use grants from of the School Improvement Fund for class size reductions in kindergarten through third grade.

Do you have questions about pending legislation? Feel free to contact our team.

Tax and fiscal policies: [Mike Stober](#)

Education and health care policies: [Megan Chuinard](#)

Employment and retail policies: [Paloma Sparks](#)

Environment and energy policies: Position to be filled soon. For now, send questions to [Katie Koenig](#).

Oregon Business & Industry

oregonbusinessindustry.com

1149 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

