

Bill Report: City Council

Report Date: March 21, 2025

City of Salem

Bill Number	Position
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HB 3720 INTRO	Oppose
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Relating to open meetings on certain matters; declaring an emergency.

Requires labor negotiations conducted by or on behalf of public bodies to be conducted in open meetings.

3/10/2025 - HB 3720 requires that labor negotiations of a public body must be conducted in an open meetings. The bill removes the provision allowing for labor negotiations to be held in executive session if negotiations for both sides request it. This will make frank and/or sensitive conversations during labor negotiations difficult, and may unduly politicize and sensationalize labor negotiations.

SB 179 A	Support
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Relating to landowner immunity.

Makes permanent the temporary changes made to the landowner immunity laws by chapter 64, Oregon Laws 2024.

2/7/2025 - SB 179 would make permanent temporary provisions added in 2024 to address situations where a person is injured using a path to access an area where they intend to recreate. The 2024 legislation was in response to an Oregon court decision that rejected a recreational immunity defense where a person was injured on a path leading to a recreational area. The person argued that while transiting the path they were not yet recreating, so the immunity defense didn't apply. The 2024 temporary legislation restored immunity for the public owner of the path except in cases of gross negligence or if the public owner was strictly liable for the injuries. SB 179 would promote the City's interest in providing recreational areas and paths to access these areas.

SB 1189 INTRO	Support
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Relating to treatment works within the North Santiam Basin; declaring an emergency.

Creates a limited exception to water quality permitting requirements for a treatment works located within the North Santiam Basin.

3/19/2025 - Marion Co. in conjunction with the North Santiam Sewer Authority is in the design phase of a new wastewater treatment facility for the cities of Mill City and Gates. However, a recent court ruling has created a permitting roadblock that threatens to delay the start of construction. The project is being funded with \$50M in ARPA money, which is required to be spent by the end of '26. Any substantial delay to the construction schedule threatens to put the funding at risk. ORS 468B.050 prohibits the construction of any treatment works without having previously obtained a permit from DEQ for discharge from the facility. As DEQ works through a rulemaking process to address the court ruling as it relates to the Three Basin Rule, the County needs to start construction immediately. SB 1189 provides a very narrow exception to ORS 468B.050 that would allow the County to begin construction while the permitting process plays out. The City has had significant input to the bill language as we believe the success of this project will have lasting positive benefits to the water quality of the North Santiam River. SB 1189 is critical to this success.