



CITY OF SALEM

Revisions to the Agenda #1

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, February 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3.3e. [21-51](#)

Priority bills for 2021 Oregon Legislative Session

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Add - New Report Added.



Staff Report

File #: 21-51

Version: 1

Date: 2/8/2021

Item #: 3.3e.

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Legislative Committee

SUBJECT:

Priority bills for 2021 Oregon Legislative Session

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council approve the City of Salem's positions on legislative bills in the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session?

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the City of Salem's positions on legislative bills in the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session.

SUMMARY:

During the regular session, when the subject of proposed legislation is outside the scope of the policy statements, City Council's Legislative Committee reviews bills identified as critical by City staff. The Legislative Committee recommends to City Council the position the City should take on critical bills. Bills reviewed by the Legislative Committee on February 5, 2021 and recommended to the City Council are attached (Attachment 1).

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

The Oregon State Legislature convened January 20, 2021 for its regular session. Over 3,000 bills have been drafted and 1,000 await first reading.

The Legislative Committee is Mayor Bennett and Councilors Andersen, Hoy, and Lewis.

BACKGROUND:

As positions are developed for individual bills, staff will use a system of prioritization to identify the City's opposition ("O") or support ("S") for a bill. For a high priority bill with a fiscal or policy impact, classifying the bill with a "1" will allow for the City to work to support or oppose the bill. For medium priorities, a "2", staff will watch for changes and may become involved if time and resources permit. For a bill of little to no priority to Salem, a "3" will not warrant staff effort. Given limited resources, these bills will be set aside and not referred to the Committee or Council unless amendments change their anticipated impact.

Before any official representing the City of Salem can attempt to influence legislation on an issue, the City Council must adopt a position related to that matter. To continue a coordinated and unified response during the upcoming session, the Mayor and Councilor are asked to communicate the nature of their legislative contacts to staff via an email to Courtney Knox Busch (cbusch@cityofsalem.net <<mailto:cbusch@cityofsalem.net>>). The email should identify the date of the legislative contact, the legislator(s) with whom contact was made, bill(s) discussed, and a summary of the position(s) and comments shared. Staff will forward the communication to the City's lobbyist, the Legislative Committee, and City Council as appropriate.

Courtney Knox Busch
Strategic Initiatives Manager

Attachments:

1. Bills Reviewed by Legislative Committee - February 5, 2021

City Council
Report Date: February 5, 2021

City of Salem

Bill Number	Position	Priority
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HB 3103 INTRO	Support	2
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Relating to water uses.

Authorizes holder of water right certificate that allows storage of water to change use of water, subject to certain requirements.

2/5/2021 - For over 30 years, municipal water providers in the Willamette Basin have been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), and other state agencies and stakeholders to reallocate the storage space in the 13 Willamette Basin Project reservoirs. This stored water is one of the few remaining water supplies to meet future needs within the basin.

Congress approved the Willamette Reallocation at the end of 2020. Now the state must complete a transfer of the stored water to multiple beneficial uses. However, OWRD recently determined they lack statutory authority to accept and process character (type) of use transfer applications after decades of established practice. OWRD's determination eliminated a crucial administrative process needed for efficient and cost-effective transfers of water from one use to another leaving municipal water providers in the Willamette Basin without a viable path to access stored water. HB 3103 clarifies that OWRD has the ability to resume accepting and processing applications to change the use of stored water allowing municipal water providers access to stored water to meet future demands.