



CITY OF SALEM

Revisions to the Agenda #1

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, February 22, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3.3d. [21-54](#)

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 #: 21-54

Version: 1

Date: 2/22/2021

Item #: 3.3d.

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 19, 2021 and recommended to the City Council are attached (Attachment 1).

Specific to House Bill 2004, concerning funding for a navigation center in Salem, Councilor Hoy will be testifying on the City of Salem's behalf. In addition to serving on the City Council's Legislative Committee, Councilor Hoy serves as Council President, Chair of the Salem Housing Authority Commission, and Vice Chair of the Mid-Willamette Valley Housing Alliance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

The Oregon State Legislature convened January 20, 2021 for its regular session. Thousands of bills

have been drafted and many 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 19, 2021

City Council

Report Date: February 19, 2021

City of Salem

Bill Number	Position	Priority
HB 2004 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to housing.</p> <p>Directs Housing and Community Services Department to study issues relating to housing and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly on or before September 15, 2022.</p> <p>2/17/2021 - HB 2004 is the vehicle for funding one of Salem's key priorities, amendment includes \$5,000,000 to the City of Salem for a navigation center.</p>		
HB 2283 INTRO	Support with amendments	1
<p>Relating to land division for residential development.</p> <p>Allows land division to separate dwelling units for new middle housing allowed in cities.</p> <p>1/18/2021 - HB 2283 is nearly identical to SB 458.</p> <p>Would preempt local authority by requiring the City to approve land divisions for middle housing. It appears that approval would be required without going through the land division process; without having lots meet size, setbacks, and other standards; without ensuring access and utilities for each lot; and without having to submit anything for review. The bill is overly broad. While the bill encourages home ownership opportunities, there are a lot of technical issues that need to be addressed.</p>		
HB 2398 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to building codes.</p> <p>Requires Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services to ensure that statewide Reach Code mandates achievement of not more than 90 percent of site energy use that other statewide residential and commercial building codes require.</p> <p>1/18/2021 - Support / 1</p>		
HB 2417 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to crisis intervention resources; declaring an emergency.</p> <p>Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to provide matching grants to cities or counties to operate mobile crisis intervention teams.</p> <p>1/28/2021 - HB 2417 requires Oregon's Department of Human Services to provide matching grants to cities or counties for mobile crisis intervention teams. Establishing a mobile crisis response unit for people in crisis, as an alternative to direct City public safety response (such as Emergency Medical Support or Police) is a critical priority for Salem. For this bill, mobile crisis intervention is a two-person team consisting of a nurse or emergency medical services provider and a crisis worker (with specific credentials), relying on trauma-informed and de-escalation techniques to resolve conflicts, make welfare checks, address suicide threats, intervene in substance abuse situations and other non-emergency medical issues. As initially drafted, the grant pre-requisites include a sobering facility, at least one shelter facility for every 65,000 residents, and at least one crisis respite center. The grant source (\$10M) is ALSO available to help communities meet these pre-requisites. Matching grants would be available after July 1, 2021.</p>		
HB 2447 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to the special assessment of historic property; prescribing an effective date.</p> <p>Extends sunset for program granting special assessment to historic property.</p> <p>1/19/2021 - HB 2447 would continue allowing historic properties in Salem to receive a lower tax assessment through 2028 (as opposed to 2022), which encourages their preservation. There are 18 properties, both residential and commercial, in Salem currently receive this special assessment.</p>		

City Council

Report Date: February 19, 2021

City of Salem

Bill Number	Position	Priority
HB 2739 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to utility ratepayer assistance.</p> <p>Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund.</p> <p>2/1/2021 - Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund. Directs Housing and Community Services Department to provide grants from moneys in fund to qualified organizations to distribute water and sewer bill payment assistance to low-income residential households. Could supplement the City's efforts to assist ratepayers who are unable to pay and face disconnection.</p>		
HB 3089 INTRO	Support	1
<p>Relating to utility ratepayer assistance.</p> <p>Establishes Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund.</p> <p>2/4/2021 - Introduced as a committee bill (House Committee on Water). Same as 2739.</p>		
SB 108 INTRO	Support with amendments	1
<p>Relating to historic property special assessment; prescribing an effective date.</p> <p>Makes changes to program for property tax special assessment of historic property.</p> <p>2/3/2021 - SB 108 would extend a tax incentive program for commercial historic properties until 2031. Salem has nine such properties in the program. The bill, however, would exclude residential properties, meaning the majority of the nine residential properties currently in the program in Salem would expire by 2023. Removing residential properties from the program would take away an existing incentive to preserve, restore, and adaptively reuse the properties. The bill should be amended to continue including residential properties in the program.</p>		
SB 458 INTRO	Support with amendments	1
<p>Relating to land division for residential development.</p> <p>Allows land division to separate dwelling units for new middle housing allowed in cities.</p> <p>1/18/2021 - SB 458 would preempt local authority by requiring the City to approve land divisions for middle housing. It appears that approval would be required without going through the land division process; without having lots meet size, setbacks, and other standards; without ensuring access and utilities for each lot; and without having to submit anything for review. The bill is overly broad. While the bill encourages home ownership opportunities, there are a lot of technical issues that need to be addressed.</p>		