

House Bill 2970

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON; Representatives BAILEY, BENTZ, CANNON, GELSER, KAHL, KOMP, READ, G SMITH

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Task Force on Utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Requires task force to report to legislative interim committee on revenue. Appropriates moneys to Department of Revenue to carry out duties of task force. Directs department to provide staff support to task force. Sunsets task force on date of convening of next regular legislative session.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to expanding utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit; appropriating money; and de-
3 claring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Utilization of the Earned Income Tax**
6 **Credit, consisting of 13 members appointed as follows:**

7 (a) **The President of the Senate shall appoint two members.**

8 (b) **The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members.**

9 (c) **The Governor shall appoint three representatives of nonprofit organizations that as-**
10 **sist disadvantaged or poor constituencies.**

11 (d) **The Governor shall appoint one representative from each of the following:**

12 (A) **The office of the Governor;**

13 (B) **The Department of Revenue;**

14 (C) **The Department of Human Services;**

15 (D) **The Department of Housing and Community Services;**

16 (E) **The Department of Economic and Community Development; and**

17 (F) **The Employment Department.**

18 (2) **The task force shall work to identify and implement methods of expanding the number**
19 **of eligible taxpayers who claim the earned income tax credits provided by section 32 of the**
20 **Internal Revenue Code and ORS 315.266 in each tax year. The task force shall develop edu-**
21 **cation and outreach strategies to ensure that eligible taxpayers are aware of the availability**
22 **of the credits and that they obtain free tax preparation assistance where available. The task**
23 **force shall develop recommendations for ensuring that state agencies work together to**
24 **maximize utilization of the credits while decreasing inefficiencies and duplication of efforts.**

25 (3) **A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction**
26 **of business.**

27 (4) **Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the members**
28 **of the task force.**

29 (5) **The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (6) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
2 ment to become immediately effective.

3 (7) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
4 or of a majority of the members of the task force.

5 (8) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

6 (9) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
7 lation, to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to revenue no later than
8 October 1, 2010.

9 (10) The Department of Revenue shall provide staff support to the task force.

10 (11) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed
11 for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of
12 their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for ex-
13 penses shall be paid out of funds appropriated to Department of Revenue for purposes of the
14 task force.

15 (12) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
16 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
17 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
18 consider necessary to perform their duties.

19 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated to the Department of Revenue, for the biennium be-
20 ginning July 1, 2009, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of
21 carrying out the duties of the Task Force on Utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

22 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2009 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the next
23 regular biennial legislative session.

24 **SECTION 4.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
25 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect
26 on its passage.