

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 543

Ordered by the Senate April 27
Including Senate Amendments dated April 27

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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.

Requires that court enter limited judgment if court denies special motion to strike.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to special motions to strike; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 31.150 and 31.152.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 31.150 is amended to read:

31.150. (1) A defendant may make a special motion to strike against a claim in a civil action described in subsection (2) of this section. The court shall grant the motion unless the plaintiff establishes in the manner provided by subsection (3) of this section that there is a probability that the plaintiff will prevail on the claim. The special motion to strike shall be treated as a motion to dismiss under ORCP 21 A but shall not be subject to ORCP 21 F. Upon granting the special motion to strike, the court shall enter a judgment of dismissal without prejudice. **If the court denies a special motion to strike, the court shall enter a limited judgment denying the motion.**

(2) A special motion to strike may be made under this section against any claim in a civil action that arises out of:

(a) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, in a legislative, executive or judicial proceeding or other proceeding authorized by law;

(b) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document submitted, in connection with an issue under consideration or review by a legislative, executive or judicial body or other proceeding authorized by law;

(c) Any oral statement made, or written statement or other document presented, in a place open to the public or a public forum in connection with an issue of public interest; or

(d) Any other conduct in furtherance of the exercise of the constitutional right of petition or the constitutional right of free speech in connection with a public issue or an issue of public interest.

(3) A defendant making a special motion to strike under the provisions of this section has the initial burden of making a prima facie showing that the claim against which the motion is made arises out of a statement, document or conduct described in subsection (2) of this section. If the defendant meets this burden, the burden shifts to the plaintiff in the action to establish that there is a probability that the plaintiff will prevail on the claim by presenting substantial evidence to support a prima facie case. If the plaintiff meets this burden, the court shall deny the motion.

(4) In making a determination under subsection (1) of this section, the court shall consider

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 pleadings and supporting and opposing affidavits stating the facts upon which the liability or defense
2 is based.

3 (5) If the court determines that the plaintiff has established a probability that the plaintiff will
4 prevail on the claim:

5 (a) The fact that the determination has been made and the substance of the determination may
6 not be admitted in evidence at any later stage of the case; and

7 (b) The determination does not affect the burden of proof or standard of proof that is applied in
8 the proceeding.

9 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 31.150 by section 1 of this 2009 Act apply only to**
10 **special motions to strike filed under ORS 31.150 on or after the effective date of this 2009**
11 **Act.**

12 **SECTION 3.** ORS 31.152 is amended to read:

13 31.152. (1) A special motion to strike under ORS 31.150 must be filed within 60 days after the
14 service of the complaint or, in the court's discretion, at any later time. A hearing shall be held on
15 the motion not more than 30 days after the filing of the motion unless the docket conditions of the
16 court require a later hearing.

17 (2) All discovery in the proceeding shall be stayed upon the filing of a special motion to strike
18 under ORS 31.150. The stay of discovery shall remain in effect until entry of the [*order ruling on the*
19 *motion*] **judgment**. The court, on motion and for good cause shown, may order that specified dis-
20 covery be conducted notwithstanding the stay imposed by this subsection.

21 (3) A defendant who prevails on a special motion to strike made under ORS 31.150 shall be
22 awarded reasonable attorney fees and costs. If the court finds that a special motion to strike is
23 frivolous or is solely intended to cause unnecessary delay, the court shall award costs and reason-
24 able attorney fees to a plaintiff who prevails on a special motion to strike.

25 **(4) The purpose of the procedure established by this section and ORS 31.150 and 31.155 is**
26 **to provide a defendant with the right to not proceed to trial in cases in which the plaintiff**
27 **does not meet the burden specified in ORS 31.150 (3). This section and ORS 31.150 and 31.155**
28 **are to be liberally construed in favor of the exercise of the rights of expression described in**
29 **ORS 31.150 (2).**

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