

Senate Bill 384

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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**.

Revises billing cycle requirement for prompt payment of amounts due under private construction contracts. Changes statement requirement for alternative billing cycles. Allows specification of alternative time limit for making final payment. Changes prevailing party entitlements regarding costs and attorney fees.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to prompt payment provisions for private construction contracts; creating new provisions;
3 and amending ORS 701.620, 701.625, 701.630, 701.635 and 701.640.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 701.620 is amended to read:

6 701.620. As used in ORS 701.620 to 701.640:

7 (1) "Construction contract" means a written or oral construction agreement, including [*all plans,*
8 *specifications and addenda*] **but not limited to any plans for a construction agreement**, relating
9 to:

10 (a) Excavating, landscaping, demolishing and detaching existing structures, leveling, filling in
11 and other preparation of land for the making and placement of a building, structure or superstruc-
12 ture;

13 (b) Creation or making of a building, structure or superstructure; and

14 (c) Alteration, partial construction and repairs done in and upon a building, structure or
15 superstructure.

16 (2) "Contractor" has the meaning given that term in ORS 87.005.

17 (3) "Days" means calendar days.

18 (4) "Material supplier" means any person providing materials or products under a construction
19 contract by [*any contractual means including*] oral authorization, written contract, purchase order,
20 price agreement, [*or*] rental agreement **or other contractual means**.

21 (5) "Original contractor" has the meaning given that term in ORS 87.005.

22 (6) "Owner" has the meaning given that term in ORS 701.410.

23 (7) **"Plans" means drawings and specifications that are provided in order to solicit bids**
24 **for work to be performed under a construction contract.**

25 [(7)] (8) "Subcontractor" has the meaning given that term in ORS 87.005.

26 **SECTION 2.** ORS 701.625 is amended to read:

27 701.625. [(1) *By mutual agreement with an original contractor, an owner may make progress pay-*
28 *ments to the original contractor on a construction contract that is anticipated to last less than 60 days.*
29 *An owner shall make progress payments to the original contractor on all other construction contracts.*

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 Progress payments shall be made on the basis of a certified billing or estimate for the work performed
2 and the materials or products supplied during the preceding 30-day billing cycle, or an alternate billing
3 cycle as stated in the construction contract. If billings or estimates are to be submitted in alternate,
4 rather than 30-day billing cycles, the construction contract shall specify the alternate billing cycles in
5 a clear and conspicuous manner as prescribed in subsection (2) of this section. Except as provided in
6 subsection (3) of this section, the owner shall make progress payments to the original contractor within
7 14 days after the date the billing is submitted pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.]

8 (1) If a construction contract is for construction work that is expected to take 60 or
9 more days to complete, an owner shall make progress payments to the original contractor.
10 By mutual agreement with an original contractor, an owner may make progress payments
11 to the original contractor under a construction contract for which the construction work is
12 expected to take less than 60 days to complete.

13 (2) [A construction contract may provide for an alternate billing cycle if the plans and specifica-
14 tions specifically set forth] The owner shall make progress payments on the basis of a certified
15 billing or estimate for work performed, and for materials or products supplied, during the
16 preceding monthly billing cycle or during an alternative billing cycle identified in the con-
17 struction contract. If a construction contract identifies an alternative billing cycle, the con-
18 struction contract must expressly state in a clear and conspicuous manner that there is an
19 [alternate] alternative billing cycle and the owner [provides for] must provide on each page of
20 plans [and specifications] relating to the construction contract a statement substantially similar
21 to the following [statement]:

22 _____
23
24 Notice of [Alternate] Alternative Billing Cycle
25

26 The construction contract will allow the owner to require the submission of billings or esti-
27 mates in billing cycles other than [30-day] monthly cycles. Billings or estimates for the con-
28 struction contract shall be submitted as follows:

29 _____
30
31 _____
32
33 _____
34
35 _____

36
37
38 (3)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, the owner shall:

39 (A) Make progress payments no later than 14 days after the date the billing is received;
40 and

41 (B) Make final payment of all remaining amounts no later than seven days after the date
42 that the owner approves the work.

43 (b) An owner may make progress payments or final payment later than [14 days after the date
44 the billing or estimate is submitted] the time allowed under paragraph (a) of this subsection if:

45 [(a)] (A) The owner [is responsible for providing plans and specifications] provides plans that

1 expressly *[allow]* **state** in a clear and conspicuous manner **that** an extended payment¹, *defined by*
 2 *a specified* **period is allowed and identify the extended payment period as a specific** number
 3 of days after **the date that** the billing or estimate is *[submitted]* **received or the date that the**
 4 **owner approves all work**; and

5 *[(b)]* **(B)** The owner provides *[for]* **on** each page of plans *[and specifications]* a statement sub-
 6 stantially similar to the following *[statement]*:

8
 9 Notice of Extended Payment Provision

10
 11 The **construction** contract will allow the owner to make *[payment within]*:

12 **1) Progress payments no later than** _____ days after the date a billing or estimate is
 13 *[submitted]* **received.**

14 **2) Final payment of all remaining amounts no later than** ____ **days after the date the**
 15 **owner approves all work.**

16
 17
 18
 19 **(4) Payment is not required under this section unless the owner receives from the ori-**
 20 **ginal contractor a billing or estimate for the work performed or the materials or products**
 21 **supplied in accordance with the terms of the construction contract.**

22 *[(4)]* **(5)** The owner is deemed to have received the billing or estimate when the billing or esti-
 23 mate is *[submitted to]* **received by** any person designated by the owner for the receipt, review or
 24 approval of the billing or estimate. A billing or estimate is deemed to be certified 10 days after the
 25 owner receives the billing or estimate, unless before that time the owner or the owner's agent pre-
 26 pares and issues a written statement detailing those items in the billing or estimate that are not
 27 approved. An owner may decline to approve a billing or estimate or portion of a billing or estimate
 28 *[for]* **because of:**

- 29 (a) Unsatisfactory work progress;
- 30 (b) Defective construction work, materials or products not remedied;
- 31 (c) Disputed work, materials or products, **except that the declined amount may** not *[to]* exceed
 32 150 percent of the amount in dispute;
- 33 (d) Failure to comply with other material provisions of the construction contract;
- 34 (e) **A** third party *[claims]* **claim being** filed or reasonable evidence that *[such]* a **third party**
 35 claim will be filed;
- 36 (f) Failure of the original contractor or a subcontractor to make timely payments to subcon-
 37 tractors and material suppliers for labor, equipment, materials and products;
- 38 (g) Damage to the owner;
- 39 (h) Reasonable evidence that the construction contract cannot be completed for the unpaid bal-
 40 ance of the construction contract sum; or
- 41 (i) Other items as allowed under the **construction** contract terms and conditions.

42 *[(5)]* **An owner may withhold from a progress payment an amount that is sufficient to pay the direct**
 43 **expenses the owner reasonably expects to incur to correct any items set forth in writing pursuant to**
 44 **subsection (4) of this section. The owner may also withhold a reasonable amount as retainage as de-**
 45 **defined in ORS 701.410.]**

(6) An owner may extend the period within which the billing or estimate may be certified if:

(a) The owner is responsible for providing plans [*and specifications*] that expressly allow in a clear and conspicuous manner an extended period within which a billing or estimate may be certified; and

(b) The owner provides for each page of plans [*and specifications, including bid plans and construction plans,*] a statement substantially similar to the following statement:

Notice of
Extended Certification Period Provision

The **construction** contract will allow the owner to certify billings and estimates [*within*] **no later than** _____ days after the billings and estimates are received from the original contractor.

(7) Any requirement under this section that a statement be provided on a page of plans may be satisfied by placing the required statement on either side of the page.

[(7)] **(8)** After a subcontractor or material supplier submits a bid or proposal or other written pricing information to an original contractor, an owner and the original contractor may **agree in writing to** change the specified number of days after certification during which the owner may make payment to the original contractor or within which the owner must certify a billing or estimate. **The billings by** any [*original contractor,*] subcontractor or material supplier that does not provide written consent to the change [*will continue to be paid as*] **remain subject to the certification period** indicated in the plans [*and specifications*]. **A construction contract may not be changed in a manner that alters the right of any subcontractor or material supplier to receive prompt and timely progress payments as provided under ORS 701.630.**

(9) An owner may withhold from a progress payment an amount that is sufficient to pay the direct expenses the owner reasonably expects to incur to correct any items detailed in a written statement under subsection (5) of this section. The owner may also withhold a reasonable amount as retainage. As used in this subsection, “retainage” has the meaning given that term in ORS 701.410.

[(8)] **(10)** When an original contractor completes and an owner approves all work under a construction contract, the owner shall make payment in full of all remaining amounts due on the construction contract [*within seven days*] **as described in subsection (3) of this section.** When an original contractor completes and an owner approves all work under a portion of a construction contract for which the **construction** contract states a separate price, the owner shall make payment in full of all remaining amounts due on that portion of the construction contract, subject to the satisfaction of any [*issue described in*] **items detailed under** subsection [(4)] **(5)** of this section or ORS 701.630 (4).

[(9)] *Payment is not required under this section unless the original contractor provides the owner with a billing or estimate for the work performed or the materials or products supplied in accordance with the terms of the construction contract between the parties.*

[(10)] *A construction contract may not alter the right of any original contractor, subcontractor or material supplier to receive prompt and timely progress payments as provided under this section.*

1 (11) If an owner or a person designated by the owner as responsible for making progress pay-
 2 ments on a construction contract does not make a timely payment under this section, the owner
 3 shall pay the original contractor interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of one and one-half
 4 percent a month or fraction of a month, or at a higher rate as the parties to the construction con-
 5 tract may agree.

6 (12) On the written request of a subcontractor, the owner shall notify the subcontractor
 7 *[within] no later than* five days after the issuance of a progress payment to the original contractor.
 8 On the written request of a subcontractor, the owner shall notify the subcontractor *[within] no later*
 9 **than** five days after the owner makes the final payment to the original contractor on the con-
 10 struction contract.

11 *[(13) In any action, claim or arbitration brought to collect payments or interest pursuant to this*
 12 *section, the prevailing party shall be awarded reasonable costs and attorney fees.]*

13 *[(14)]* **(13)** If the owner and original contractor are a single entity, that entity shall *[pay] make*
 14 **progress and final payments to** subcontractors and material suppliers *[within 14 days after the*
 15 *billing or estimate is received unless the deadlines for certification or payment have been modified*
 16 *pursuant to] as described in* subsection (3) or (6) of this section.

17 **(14) In any action, claim or arbitration brought to collect interest pursuant to this sec-**
 18 **tion, the prevailing party shall be awarded costs and reasonable attorney fees.**

19 **SECTION 3.** ORS 701.630 is amended to read:

20 701.630. (1) *[Performance by]* An original contractor, subcontractor or material supplier *[in ac-*
 21 *cordance with the provisions of a construction contract entitles the original contractor, subcontractor*
 22 *or material supplier] that performs in accordance with a construction contract is entitled to*
 23 payment from the party with whom the original contractor, subcontractor or material supplier con-
 24 tracts.

25 *[(2) If a subcontractor or material supplier has performed in accordance with the provisions of a*
 26 *construction contract, the original contractor shall pay to the subcontractor or material supplier, and*
 27 *each subcontractor shall pay to its subcontractors or material suppliers, the full amount received for*
 28 *such subcontractor's work and for materials and products supplied based on the subcontract or pur-*
 29 *chase order terms and conditions within seven days of receipt by the original contractor or subcon-*
 30 *tractor of a progress payment or final payment.]*

31 **(2)(a) If a subcontractor has performed in accordance with a construction contract, and**
 32 **the original contractor receives payment from the owner for work performed by the sub-**
 33 **contractor, the original contractor shall pay the subcontractor for that work no later than**
 34 **seven days after the original contractor receives the payment. If a material supplier has**
 35 **performed in accordance with a construction contract, and the original contractor receives**
 36 **payment from the owner for materials or products provided by the material supplier, the**
 37 **original contractor shall pay the material supplier for those materials and products no later**
 38 **than seven days after the original owner receives the payment. An original subcontractor**
 39 **that receives payment under this subsection for work provided to the original subcontractor**
 40 **by another subcontractor, or for materials or products provided to the original subcontrac-**
 41 **tor, shall pay the other subcontractor or material supplier for the work, materials or pro-**
 42 **ducts no later than seven days after the original subcontractor receives the payment.**

43 **(b)** Payment is not required under this subsection unless a subcontractor or material supplier
 44 provides to the original contractor or subcontractor a billing or invoice for the work performed or
 45 materials or products supplied in compliance with the terms of the contract between the parties.

1 Each subcontractor or material supplier must provide an appropriate waiver of any [*mechanic's or*
2 *materialman's*] lien **for labor, equipment, services, materials or products** in accordance with
3 subcontract or purchase order terms and conditions. The original contractor or subcontractor may
4 require that such waivers of lien be notarized.

5 (3) Any failure to reasonably account for the application or use of payments, as proven in a legal
6 proceeding authorized under the terms of the construction contract, may constitute grounds for
7 disciplinary action by the Construction Contractors Board under ORS 701.098.

8 (4) [*Nothing in this section prevents*] An original contractor [*when submitting a bill*] **that sub-**
9 **mits a billing** or estimate to an owner, or [*a*] **an original** subcontractor [*when submitting a bill*]
10 **that submits a billing** or estimate to the original contractor, [*from omitting from the bill*] **may omit**
11 **from the billing or** estimate amounts **to be** withheld from payment to a subcontractor or material
12 supplier [*for*] **because of:**

13 (a) Unsatisfactory work progress;

14 (b) Defective construction work, materials or products not remedied;

15 (c) Disputed work, materials or products, **except that the withheld amount may** not [*to*] ex-
16 ceed 150 percent of the amount in dispute;

17 (d) Failure to comply with other material provisions of the construction contract;

18 (e) **A** third party [*claims*] **claim being** filed or reasonable evidence that [*such*] a **third party**
19 claim will be filed;

20 (f) Failure of the **original** subcontractor to make timely payments to subcontractors and mate-
21 rial suppliers for labor, equipment, materials and products;

22 (g) Damage to an original contractor, subcontractor or material supplier;

23 (h) Reasonable evidence that the subcontract cannot be completed for the unpaid balance of the
24 subcontract sum; **or**

25 [*i*] *A reasonable amount for retainage, as defined in ORS 701.410, that does not exceed the actual*
26 *percentage allowed by the subcontract or purchase order; or*

27 [*j*] (i) Other items as allowed under the subcontract or purchase order terms and conditions.

28 **(5) An original contractor or original subcontractor may also omit from a billing or es-**
29 **timate a reasonable amount for retainage, except that the amount omitted may not exceed**
30 **the actual percentage allowed by the construction contract, subcontract or purchase order.**
31 **As used in this subsection, "retainage" has the meaning given that term in ORS 701.410.**

32 [(5)] (6) If a progress or final payment to a subcontractor or material supplier is delayed by more
33 than seven days after receipt of a progress or final payment by an original contractor or subcon-
34 tractor, the original contractor or subcontractor shall pay its subcontractor or material supplier
35 interest beginning on the eighth day, except during periods of time during which payment is with-
36 held pursuant to subsection (4) **or** (5) of this section, at the rate of one and one-half percent a month
37 or a fraction of a month on the unpaid balance or at such higher rate as the parties agree.

38 [(6)] (7) In any action, claim or arbitration brought to collect payments or interest under this
39 section, the prevailing party shall be awarded [*reasonable*] costs and **reasonable** attorney fees.

40 **SECTION 4.** ORS 701.635 is amended to read:

41 701.635. (1) An original contractor may suspend performance under a construction contract, or
42 **if performance is suspended for longer than one month may** terminate a construction
43 contract, if [*performance is suspended for longer than 30 days, for failure by*] the owner **fails** to make
44 timely payment of the amount certified under ORS 701.625. An original contractor shall provide
45 written notice to an owner at least seven days before the original contractor suspends performance

1 or terminates the **construction** contract, unless a shorter notice period is prescribed in the **con-**
2 **struction** contract. An original contractor may not be deemed in breach of a construction contract
3 for suspending performance or terminating a construction contract pursuant to this subsection. A
4 construction contract may not extend the notice period under this subsection.

5 (2) A subcontractor may suspend performance under a construction contract, or **if performance**
6 **is suspended for longer than one month may** terminate a construction contract, if [*performance*
7 *is suspended for longer than 30 days, for failure by*] the owner **fails** to make timely payment of
8 amounts certified under ORS 701.625 or the subcontractor [*fails to*] **does not** receive payment for
9 the certified work under ORS 701.630 (2). A subcontractor shall provide written notice to the ori-
10 ginal contractor and owner at least three days before the subcontractor suspends performance or
11 terminates the **construction** contract, unless a shorter notice period is prescribed in the **con-**
12 **struction** contract. A subcontractor may not be deemed in breach of a construction contract for
13 suspending performance or terminating a **construction** contract pursuant to this subsection. A
14 construction contract may not extend the notice period under this subsection.

15 (3) A subcontractor may suspend performance under a construction contract, or **if performance**
16 **is suspended for longer than one month may** terminate a construction contract, [*if performance*
17 *is suspended for longer than 30 days,*] if the owner makes timely payment of amounts certified under
18 ORS 701.625 for the subcontractor's work but the original contractor fails to pay the subcontractor
19 for the certified work. A subcontractor shall provide written notice to the original contractor and
20 owner at least seven days before the subcontractor suspends performance or terminates the **con-**
21 **struction** contract, unless a shorter notice period is prescribed in the **construction** contract. A
22 subcontractor may not be deemed in breach of a construction contract for suspending performance
23 or terminating a **construction** contract pursuant to this subsection. A construction contract may
24 not extend the notice period under this subsection.

25 (4) A subcontractor may suspend performance under a construction contract, or **if performance**
26 **is suspended for longer than one month may** terminate a construction contract, [*if performance*
27 *is suspended for longer than 30 days,*] if the owner **declines or** fails to approve portions of the
28 contractor's billing or estimate under ORS 701.625 for that subcontractor's work [*but*] **and** the rea-
29 sons for [*that failure*] **nonapproval** are not the fault of or directly related to the subcontractor's
30 work. A subcontractor shall provide written notice to the original contractor and the owner at least
31 seven days before the subcontractor suspends performance or terminates the **construction** contract,
32 unless a shorter notice period is prescribed in the **construction** contract. A subcontractor may not
33 be deemed in breach of a construction contract for suspending performance or terminating a **con-**
34 **struction** contract pursuant to this subsection. A construction contract may not extend the notice
35 period under this subsection.

36 (5) A contractor or subcontractor may not submit a notice of suspension under this section until
37 the lawful period for payment to the contractor or subcontractor has expired.

38 (6) An original contractor or subcontractor that suspends performance as provided in this sec-
39 tion [*is not required to furnish further labor, materials, products or services until the original con-*
40 *tractor or subcontractor is paid the amount that was certified under ORS 701.625, together with*] **may**
41 **condition the supplying of further labor, equipment, services, materials or products upon the**
42 **owner paying, in addition to any amounts certified under ORS 701.625,** any documented, sub-
43 stantial and reasonably incurred costs for mobilization resulting from the shutdown or start-up of
44 a project.

45 (7) In any action, claim or arbitration brought pursuant to this section, the prevailing party

1 shall be awarded [*reasonable*] costs and **reasonable** attorney fees.

2 (8) Written notice required under this section is deemed to have been provided if the notice:

3 (a) Is delivered in person to the owner, original contractor, subcontractor or a person designated
4 by the owner, original contractor or subcontractor to receive notice; or

5 (b) Is delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or other means that provides written,
6 third party verification of delivery to the last business address of the owner, original contractor or
7 subcontractor known to the party giving notice.

8 **SECTION 5.** ORS 701.640 is amended to read:

9 701.640. (1) A construction contract may not include any provision, covenant or clause that:

10 (a) Makes the **construction** contract subject to the laws of another state or that requires any
11 litigation, arbitration or other dispute resolution proceeding arising from the **construction** contract
12 to be conducted in another state; or

13 (b) States that a party to the **construction** contract cannot suspend performance under the
14 **construction** contract or terminate the **construction** contract if another party to the **construction**
15 contract fails to make prompt payments under the **construction** contract pursuant to ORS 701.620
16 to 701.640.

17 (2) Any provision, covenant or clause described in subsection (1) of this section is void and
18 unenforceable.

19 **SECTION 6.** The amendments to ORS 701.620, 701.625, 701.630, 701.635 and 701.640 by
20 sections 1 to 5 of this 2011 Act apply to construction contracts that a property owner enters
21 into on or after the effective date of this 2011 Act.

22