



Uniform Law Commission
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

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Oregon State Legislature
House Judiciary Committee

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Garrett and Krieger, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), I write in support of HB 2944, a bill to enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). UELMA was completed and approved by the ULC in July of 2011. UELMA is the result of a one-year study and two-year drafting process, which included several key stakeholders including the American Association of Law Libraries as well as advisors from the American Bar Association. The two largest national publishers of legal material, LexisNexis and Thomson Reuters, also participated as observers during the drafting process.

UELMA provides states with a consistent, outcome-based approach to authenticate and preserve electronic legal material. The goals of the authentication and preservation program outlined in HB 2944 are *to enable end-users to verify the trustworthiness of the legal material they are using and to provide a framework for states to preserve legal material in perpetuity in a manner that allows for permanent access.*

UELMA does not require the use of any specific technology that is prone to become outdated. Instead, the act gives states flexibility to adopt any sufficient technology, which also holds down the cost of implementation. To date, all adopting jurisdictions have enacted UELMA with no fiscal note.

HB 2944 does *not* require that Oregon publish an official electronic version of its laws. Only if Oregon were to stop publishing the printed official books would an official electronic version be necessary. Additionally, if Oregon voluntarily published an official electronic version of its laws, it would not incur any additional liability with respect to errors in the official electronic version, if they occurred. If there were errors in the official electronic version, it would be treated the same way as if those errors had occurred in the official printed version.

In summation, enacting HB 2944 would establish access to reliable electronic legal material in Oregon; achieving three objectives: (1) the public and other users can be assured that the electronic legal material they access is authentic; (2) a method for preserving archives of legal material is pursued; and (3) permanent public access to the law is created.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request that the members of the House Judiciary Committee vote in favor of HB 2944.

Sincerely,

Nicole Julal
ULC Senior Legislative Counsel