

**Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee  
In support of SB 490  
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar  
February 7, 2017**

Chair Prozanski, members of the committee:

My name is Amber Hollister and I am the General Counsel for the Oregon State Bar. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors in support of SB 490.

The Oregon State Bar is governed by the Board of Governors, which determines the general policies of the bar and approves its budget each year. The Board of Governors consists of fifteen lawyers elected from eight regions, four public members appointed by the board, and the non-voting position of Immediate Past-President.

Senate Bill 490 addresses three distinct and important issues related to governance of the Oregon State Bar. Fundamentally, SB 490 was drafted to ensure that Chapter 9 of the Oregon Revised Statutes and the Oregon State Bar's bylaws remain in sync.

First, the Oregon State Bar is currently updating its management software. The bar is currently using a DOS-based system in place since the 1980's to manage the regulatory, admissions, discipline, and member services system. The new system, paid for with licensing fees, will, among a number of other things, allow the bar to vote electronically. SB 490 modifies ORS Chapter 9 to allow for electronic distribution of ballots and voting for members of the Board of Governors.

Second, Over the last year, the bar's Board of Governors (BOG) has updated its bylaws to better reflect the growing responsibilities of the bar's chief administrative officer. As the bar explores and responds to many of the proposed changes to the practice of law, the role of the chief administrative officer has evolved. To acknowledge that change, the BOG has changed the title from Executive Director to Chief Executive Officer.

In a similar vein, SB 490 updates ORS Chapter 9 to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the members of the Board of Governors. During the 2015 legislative session, the legislature passed SB 381 which added a representative to the BOG for out-of-state bar members. The addition of another member created an unintended consequence and as a result, SB 490 removes from statute the position of two vice-president and adds to the statute the position of past-president. These changes better reflect the actions and responsibilities of the Board of Governors.

Third, SB 490 would clarify that the Board of Governors has the ability to assess a late payment penalty for those bar members who are in default in payment of fees or contributions.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.