



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HB 2593 – Breastfeeding Accommodations**

**2019 Legislative Session**

**Background**

According to data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, “women with children are the fastest-growing segment of the workforce.”<sup>1</sup> Coinciding with this rise is a recognition of the importance of breastfeeding when possible, as more healthcare professionals promote the health benefits to both mother and child. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that “more than 80% of new mothers in the United States begin breastfeeding, and 6 in every 10 new mothers are in the workforce.”<sup>2</sup>

Currently, Oregon and federal law are not consistent regarding workplace protections for the expression of breast milk. HB 2593 works to resolve these inconsistencies and be inclusive of all workplaces to create a clear standard for employers and employees by doing the following:

1. Apply the provisions of ORS 653.077 to all employers, not just employers of 25 or more employees
2. Amend Oregon law to allow for as many rest periods as needed by the employee and for a reasonable length of time as is provided in federal law

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Available at [https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/nis\\_data/results.html](https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/nis_data/results.html)

<sup>2</sup> Available at: [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_1YR\\_S1301&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_S1301&prodType=table)

