



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Office of Administrative Hearings Oversight Committee

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Ex-officio Members:

John Mann
*Chief Administrative
Law Judge*

March 5, 2021

House Committee on Judiciary - House Subcommittee On Civil Law
Representative Karin Power, Chair
Representative Kim Wallan, Vice Chair

Re: HB 3176

Dear Chair Power and Vice Chair Wallan:

In accordance with ORS 183.690, the Office of Administrative Hearings Oversight Committee met to consider HB 3176, and any impact it might have on the effectiveness, fairness or efficiency of the operations of the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Committee **recommends passage of HB 3176** as a means of increasing the effectiveness, fairness and efficiency of the hearings process. HB 3176 permits the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings to require implied consent hearings under ORS 813.410 to be conducted by telephone or other two-way communication device if the judge determines that holding the hearing in person poses significant risk to health or safety. Under current law, such hearings must be held in person at the request of any party to the hearing. HB 3176 would retain the right of a party to request that a hearing be held in person under most circumstances. However, it would allow the Office of Administrative Hearings to require a hearing to be held electronically under circumstances where holding an in-person hearing would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of hearing participants.

Respectfully,

Paul Holvey
Oregon State Representative
District 8
Chair, OAH Oversight Committee