

Senate Bill 1569

Collection of race and ethnicity data

Background

Beginning in 2023, Senate Bill 1569 requires the Department of Revenue to allow taxpayers to voluntarily report their race and ethnicity as they file an annual personal income tax form. The department will offer people a choice of race and ethnicity categories as developed by the Oregon Health Authority for use on their Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Disability (REALD) forms.

Implementation

Upon passage of SB 1569, Oregon Department of Revenue will be the first in the nation to collect race and ethnicity on personal income tax forms. The collected data will be separated from all other data on the tax form, and accessible in raw format by only staff from the department Research section, the Legislative Revenue Office, and the Office of Economic Analysis.

Confidentiality of taxpayer information and information security is critical to the work of the department. The department will report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology on implementation and measures that protect race and ethnicity data from access or use by unauthorized people.

The department anticipates reporting to a variety of legislative committees about the data collection process and results as taxpayers voluntarily respond in coming years.

-1 Amendment

The -1 amendment makes several key changes:

- 1. Clarifies that data are collected on personal income tax forms only, not ALL tax filings outlined in ORS Chapter 316.
- 2. Expands the use of collected data for any analysis of revenue policy, and not limit it to "racial justice related" policy.
- 3. Limits the statutory reporting of information security and technology issues; however, the department anticipates reporting of data gathering and analysis to Revenue committees and policy committees on a regular basis.
- 4. Allows the department to use relevant data, in addition to the taxpayer race and ethnicity data, to prepare agency-specific racial impact statements, administrative rules, budget requests, and certain requests for information from the Legislative Assembly.
- 5. Clarifies that if data are included in reports or other formats, they will be aggregated and anonymized.

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