

YES on HB 3028: Civic Duty Protections for Board & Commission Members

Background

Oregon has over 250 boards and commissions that advise policy or serve as the rule making bodies for our state's agencies and programs. These boards and commissions are an important part of our government, ensuring citizen participation and oversight in how agencies develop and implement policies and rules. The people who serve on these bodies are volunteers, and they need to be able to make time for meetings, study policy issues, and connect with various communities in order to meaningfully participate. This need for flexibility creates barriers for low-income and frontline workers, and other historically disadvantaged communities. The best way to increase participation in this work is to reduce barriers to entry. Like juries, Oregon's boards and commissions should be reflective of our communities and include voices of people with an understanding of the real impacts of state rules and policies.

HB 3028 includes employment protections for members of state boards and commissions that are based on the statute for employers and employees regarding jury duty:

- Allows employees to take unpaid leave to attend meetings or events related to their service.
- Prohibits employers from firing, threatening to fire, disciplining, intimidating or coercing employees because of the employee's position on the board or any scheduled events for that position.
- Prohibits employers from requiring employees to use any accrued paid time off, vacation or sick time to attend meetings or scheduled events related to service for the position.
- Gives authority of complaint based investigation and enforcement to BOLI.
- Provides for 21 day notice from employee to employer for meetings related to service for the employer to comply with the fair scheduling law.

Please pass HB 3028 and provide reasonable job protections for Oregonians serving on state boards and commissions.

From the Desk of
Representative Courtney Neron

