

PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY - IN HONOR OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29

A proposal for a constitutional amendment to require that a jury verdict of not guilty be unanimous, just as a unanimous jury verdict of guilty is required. **All 49 other states** require a unanimous verdict of not guilty, as well as a unanimous verdict of guilty. **This would bring Oregon in line with every other state.** Equity and justice require that both verdicts of guilty and verdicts of not guilty be unanimous.

HOUSE BILL 2135

Eliminates the current “catch and release” system which allows criminals to commit a crime, get arrested, get released, and then commit another crime after release. This bill requires judges to review the criminal history of criminal defendants, and the crime of which they are presently charged, to determine whether public safety and the protection of the victim prevent the release of the criminal defendant pending trial.

HOUSE BILL 3603

Currently, it is difficult to introduce in court evidence of prior crimes committed by a defendant. **This bill changes that practice for cases involving sexual offenses and domestic violence.** House Bill 3603 provides that in cases where a defendant is charged with a sexual offense or domestic violence, evidence of the defendant’s commission of prior sexual offenses or domestic violence is admissible. For example, in a recent child sexual assault case where a suicidal 12-year-old reported that her stepfather was sexually molesting her, there was virtually no corroboration of her allegations. However, the stepfather had been convicted in California for molesting his prior girlfriend’s twelve-year-old daughter. This is the kind of case where allowing evidence of previous sexual assaults is invaluable.

HOUSE BILL 2310

Reestablishes criminal penalties for possession and distribution of street drugs, including fentanyl, that were stripped by Measure 110, while still supporting the rehabilitation funds that go towards expanding access to rehabilitation programs and helping troubled Oregonians receive treatment. This is important because drug use is at an all-time high. **We need to hold drug users accountable to prevent additional tragedies.**

FROM THE DESK OF KEVIN L. MANNIX