

Tuesday, February 13, 2023

**Written Testimony of Rob Bovett  
before the  
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans  
with regard to House Bill 2805**

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Representatives Conrad, Dexter, Evans, and Hieb,

For the record I'm Rob Bovett. I was asked to join the [2022 House Bill 4140](#) work group shortly after the end of the 2022 legislative session. I had no involvement with that bill, but I have been a county lawyer in Oregon for the past 30 years and involved in legislation for even longer, having started my legal career in Legislative Counsel in the late 1980's. The House Bill 4140 work group was interested in obtaining the input of a local government lawyer with an array of experience with Oregon's public meetings laws.

I do not represent any entity today, and I have no position on the underlying bill. I'm appearing before you today as the primary scrivener of Sections 1 and 2 of [2023 House Bill 2805](#). The purpose of this written testimony is to simply provide references to legislation, caselaw and other resources that I'll use to help briefly summarize the nature of Sections 1 and 2 of the bill, and how they work.

With that in mind, here is a short list of the key references that I will briefly discuss during my testimony today:

- 1973 Oregon Laws, Chapter 172 (Enrolled 1973 Senate Bill 15).
- 1979 Oregon Laws, Chapter 644 (Enrolled 1979 House Bill 2929).
- *Handy v Lane County*, [274 Or App 644 \(2015\)](#),  
*affirmed in part and reversed in part* [360 Or 605 \(2016\)](#).
- [Oregon Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual \(2019\)](#)  
(public meetings portion starts on page 135, which is page 303 of the PDF).

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2805 with you today. I'm more than happy to receive and respond to any questions or comments you might have.