



Now is not the time to add OLCC commissioners with Conflicts of Interest

Vote "No" on HB 4093

HB 4093 would require that at least one commissioner of the Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission (OLCC) have a background in public health.

OLCC is the regulatory and licensing body, not the policy body.

HB 4093 requires that at least one commissioner to have "a background in public health." This type of designation serves a special interest. In Oregon today, there are interest groups who meet this definition with the goal of driving moderate, adult alcohol consumers away from legal alcohol consumption. This is in direct conflict with the OLCC's statutory mission of promoting the safe use of alcohol while raising revenue for the State of Oregon. OLCC serves as the regulatory and licensing body for alcohol and cannabis, while the alcohol and drug commission and OHA are the policy body for these products. It is irrational to put someone on the regulatory and licensing committee to advocate for a policy that is in direct conflict with the OLCC mission.

The OLCC already has this expertise. This bill is unnecessary.

The OLCC has shifted dramatically over the past year, increasing to nine (9) commissioners, many brand new to the commission and with public health backgrounds, making this bill unnecessary. For example, at least four of the current OLCC commissioners have a background in public health at the state, local government, and treatment provider levels.

Any adjustments to the OLCC should be holistic and avoid conflicts of interest

Currently, there is only one designated position on the commission that outlines what background or demographics that commissioner must have. That position is designated for a food and beverage retailer. There are no positions designated for the plethora of entities licensed and regulated by the OLCC. If we are going to shift the longstanding structure and makeup of the commission and begin designating spots for individuals with preconceived opinions, we must take a more holistic approach and first determine whether any OLCC commissioner should have a preexisting bias.

Adding requirements would make it more difficult to fill positions.

OLCC as it is currently comprised includes very diverse representation and viewpoints. By designating a seat specifically for a public health advocate, this legislation would limit the pool of candidates and could create challenges in identifying diverse candidates in the future.

Before making this change in the makeup of the OLCC, the legislature should take the time to adequately study the commission's needs and priorities, particularly on the heels of what has been a deeply challenging year for the industries it regulates.

We urge you to oppose HB 4093