



October 24, 2025

TO: Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Co-Chair Senator Kate Lieber
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez

RE: 2025-27 Agency Reduction Options

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez:

The Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) was established by [Senate Bill 1569](#) (2016) to provide centralized professional, nonpartisan research, policy analysis, and committee management services for the Legislative Assembly ([ORS 173.605](#)). LPRO supports Oregonians in engaging with lawmakers and the legislative process by providing language access services and coordinating public engagement and testimony for legislative committees.

On October 1, 2025, Legislative Fiscal Officer Amanda Beitel directed LPRO to identify a 5% budget reduction target for the 2025-2027 biennium and to describe the new and expanded programs and services within the office since 2021.

Proposed Reduction Options

Statute requires legislative and judicial branch agencies to retain any remaining General Fund balances, typically referred to as reversions, from the previous biennium for the payment of expenses for the next biennium. To mitigate the impact of General Fund reductions on core services and positions, legislative branch agencies have prioritized utilizing these anticipated reversions from the 2023-25 biennium to help achieve the reduction targets.

After accounting for new investments for the 2025-2027 biennium, LPRO is projected to have unspent General Fund of \$1,301,533 from the 2023-25 biennium.



To achieve the 5% reduction target, which totals \$1,202,908, LPRO proposes utilizing a portion of the total projected reserve. To accomplish the initial 2.5% reduction for 2025-26, LPRO proposes using \$601,454 of projected unspent General Fund. Prioritizing the use of reversions allows LPRO to continue to meet the agency's core mission and maintain our core services: providing professional, nonpartisan staffing, analysis, and research that support and inform the policymaking process, and ensuring meaningful access on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to the legislative process for all Oregonians. See attached Excel file for additional details on the proposed options.

New and Expanded Programs

LPRO has created two new programs since July 1, 2021: (1) Language Access Services, and (2) the LPRO Fellowship. The Language Access Services program was established at the direction and request of the Presiding Officers in 2021 and was affirmed through legislative investments in the 2021 legislative session. The LPRO Fellowship was created in 2022 through an investment in 2021 by the Legislative Assembly. The two programs are **fully implemented**.

Language Access Services

The Language Access Services program provides meaningful access to the legislative process for individuals who communicate using languages other than English. Oregon is the second state to establish a Language Access Program within the legislative branch. Although the program staff are housed in LPRO, the program serves the **entire branch**, including all legislative committees and the 90 members and their staff.

Services include the following:

- **Simultaneous American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation**, in-person and remote, for Oregonians who are deaf or hard of hearing to engage with members and legislative proceedings, including committee hearings and floor sessions.
- **Spoken language interpretation** for individuals to testify in a public meeting, or any interpretation for meetings with legislators in languages other than English.
- **Translation services** of legislative documents, testimonies, member newsletters, and communication between legislators and their constituents.

The **2021-23 legislatively adopted budget** ([link](#)) included two investments by the legislature to support the creation of the Language Access Services program through Policy Option Package 801 ([link](#)):

- \$1.2 million investment for contracted services to improve access for the deaf and hard of hearing community and establishment of an ASL Coordinator position (0.92 FTE).



- \$454,530 to support language access through the establishment of two permanent positions (2.00 FTE), including a Language Access Coordinator to develop and implement a plan to provide language access services and a Spanish Language Interpreter to provide in-house Spanish language interpretation and translation.

The **2023-25 legislatively adopted budget** ([link](#)) for LPRO included the following investment:

- \$522,126 General Fund to establish one permanent full-time Spanish Interpreter (0.88 FTE) and one permanent full-time American Sign Language Interpreter (0.88 FTE) to meet an increasing demand for language access services.

The **2025-2027 legislatively adopted budget** for LPRO included Policy Option Package 801 ([link](#)):

- \$237,534 General Fund to support two positions (1.21 FTE): a permanent full-time Language Access Administrative Assistant (0.88 FTE) to assist with scheduling of necessary interpretation services during session and interim meetings, and a session-only Spanish Language Interpreter (0.33 FTE) position to provide interpreter services during session.

The LPRO Fellowship

The LPRO Fellowship provides early-career policy professionals with exposure to Oregon's state legislative process, experience performing the functions of a nonpartisan Legislative Analyst, and mentorship to support professional growth. The LPRO Fellowship is a 12-month limited-duration position designed for a recent graduate of a Master's, Ph.D., J.D., or professional program in public policy. Since its implementation, LPRO has successfully supported three fellows over the past three years.

- The **2021-23 legislatively adopted budget** ([link](#)) was the legislature's initial investment in creating the Fellow program through Policy Option Package 801 ([link](#)):\$160,810 for the establishment of an LPRO Fellowship position (0.75 FTE) to function similarly to a graduate student internship and offer exposure to the legislative process, while providing an opportunity for early-career candidates and a pipeline for Legislative Analysts.

The **2023-25 and 2025-27 legislatively adopted budgets** have included continued funding to support the Fellow.



LPRO is committed to its statutory responsibilities of delivering professional, legislative research, policy analysis, and committee services that improve the policymaking process and provide access for all Oregonians. The Language Access Services and LPRO Fellow programs exemplify our commitment to professional growth and public involvement in the legislative process. I invite you to ask any questions and encourage you to contact me to learn more about these programs and their impact on the work of the Legislative Assembly and the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Misty Freeman

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2025-27 Biennium

2025-27 LAB	24,058,157	-	-	-	-	-	24,058,157
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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[illegible]

Target (5%)	1,202,908	-	-	
Difference	0	-	-	

Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion		Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status	
		Biennium	Effective Date												
LPRO		2021-23		Presiding Officers' direction, reaffirmed in Legislative Branch budget, HB 5016 (2021); interpreter positions added in SB 5516 (2023); admin assistant and session interpreter added in HB 5016 (2025)	2,541,863						\$ 2,541,863	7	6.21	Fully implemented	
LPRO		2021-23		HB 5016 (2021)	246,815						\$ 253,002	1	1.00	Fully implemented	
											\$ -				
											\$ -				
											\$ -				
											\$ -				
				TOTAL	2,788,678	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 2,794,865	8	7.21		

Instructions

- Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.
- Column (6) - Program description should include a summary of the program and the expansion (if applicable), including any partner state agencies.
- Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.