



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 12, 2025

To: [Rep. Ben Bowman](#), Chair, and Vice Chairs Reps. [Drazan](#) and [Pham](#)

Members of the [House Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [HB 2692](#) – Creates Burdensome and Inefficient Administrative Rules Processes – **Oppose**

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government. We believe that broad-based participation in agency rulemaking means that any adopted rules are likely to more accurately reflect legislative intent and provide the best possible outcomes.

Under Administrative Rules, state agencies are required to implement legislation passed by this body and signed by the Governor. Depending on the complications of the implementing requirements, agencies select the most inclusive process to address the needed implementation. **But it is their role to implement the legislation, not make new policy.**

Page 1, lines 17-19 assumes that all rules relate to regulating entities, but many rules simply provide guidance to the agency to assure the intent of the legislation is implemented per the policy. Often there are no regulated entities, so membership needs to be broad enough to help the agency clearly implement that policy.

Page 2, lines 9-14 assumes that the Legislature, in considering proposed legislation, does not consider economic effects of the legislation. On that we disagree. We trust the deliberative legislative process to bring out those concerns before passage. Although we understand the desire to have exact costs before rulemaking commences, we are aware of the possibility of increases as the agency works to include all Oregonians with all interests in the rulemaking. Without having those conversations with interested parties, it may not be possible for the agency to assure that costs will not exceed \$100,000.

Of greater concern is Page 3, lines 9-14 where a limited number of people outside of the legislative process and outside of the Administrative Rules process would have the power to stop rules from becoming effective—even though the legislation passed that required those rules is the reason for that rulemaking. Such stoppage by a few would certainly increase the cost of any rulemaking and could well increase the costs mentioned on page 2 of this bill. A discussion of these concerns occurs when the Legislature has the opportunity to debate and vote on the legislation.

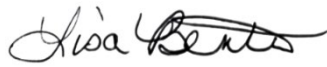
Agencies evaluate the cost of compliance which includes an estimated number and type of small businesses, effect on housing costs, a description of the required administrative work, identification of equipment and labor required, and discussion of outreach to businesses during development as part of their fiscal impact statement estimates as best they can. The extent of the rules advisory committee is dependent on the level of impact. **Page 3, lines 19-30 is overly burdensome if required for all rulemaking. Page 3, line 36 is a policy question that we assume was discussed with the legislation passed and does NOT belong in the rules process.**

Section 2 of this bill, Page 7, lines 21-25, assumes that rules should be focused solely on economic impacts. Factors related to public health and safety, protection of the environment, climate change impacts and other factors are a part of discussions when legislation is passed and must be a part of consideration when implementing rules are passed. Legislators receive public testimony and deliberate on bills before them. Once passed, they expect that the policies adopted will be implemented in a timely and efficient manner. Rules Advisory Committees are carefully selected to provide a balance of views and for the expertise they may have related to the rules needed for implementation.

The League believes that broad-based participation in agency rulemaking means that any adopted rules are likely to more accurately reflect legislative intent and provide the best possible outcomes. The League shares notice of rulemaking with members and others and has supported agencies' maintenance of email notice lists and up-to-date websites so that all can be informed of agency actions. Today agencies pay closer attention to underserved communities as they reach out during rulemaking so that all voices may be heard. These agencies have important roles to play and are often underfunded. We hope the Legislature will consider the many responsibilities of our state agencies and the broad interests of all Oregonians as legislation is debated. **We ask that you reject this bill and instead provide agencies with the resources needed for adequate outreach and research needed when you ask that implementing rules be created to achieve legislatively approved outcomes. Thank you for considering our recommendations.**

We urge your opposition to HB 2692

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR



Peggy Lynch
Natural Resources Coordinator



Norman Turrill
Governance Coordinator