

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules
DATE: February 2, 2026
BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



LPRO
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Workers' Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Reappointments

Ryan Hearn of Eugene
Sarah Merrick of Salem

Terms

Hearn: April 26, 2026 – April 25, 2030
Merrick: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2030

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 656.790 \(2023\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Composition³

The committee consists of 11 members:

- five organized labor subject workers' representatives (**MERRICK**, RIVAS, STRICKLAND, WEDDELL, VACANT);
- five subject employers' representatives (DUCKWALL, **HEARN**, LEWALLEN, PRIEST, SCHLESSINGER); and
- the Department of Consumer and Business Services Director, *ex officio*, (STOLFI).

Appointed members serve three-year terms.

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2025\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2025\)](#).

³ [ORS 656.790 \(2025\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2025\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2025\)](#) for diversity criteria.

Duties⁴

The committee provides a forum for business and labor to meet to resolve issues involving the workers' compensation system. The committee must:

- biennially review evaluation standards for permanent disability and recommend modifications;
- biennially review and recommend modifications to permanent partial disability benefits;
- advise the director on proposed changes in program operation of those funded by the Workers' Benefit Fund;
- report the committee's findings to the director; and
- report findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

⁴ [ORS 656.790 \(2025\)](#).



Workers' Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee

Agency: **Consumer & Business Services, Department of**

Policy Area: **Labor/Trades**

Authorization: **ORS 656.790**

Board Admin: **Teri Watson**

Min Members: **10** Max Members: **11**

Address:

Term Length: **3** Term Limit: **2**

Department of Consumer and Business

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

PO Box 14480

Salem, OR 97309

(503) 947-7867

teri.a.watson@dcbs.oregon.gov

Current Appointments

Rivas, Emily

Term(s): **3/1/2025 - 2/28/2028**

Labor Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **2**

Merrick, Sarah

Term(s): **7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030**

Labor Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **3**

Mr Strickland, Scott M

Term(s): **9/19/2024 - 9/18/2027**

Labor Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **4**

Ms Weddell, Margaret F Esq

Term(s): **11/19/2024 - 11/18/2027**

Labor Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **5**

Schlessinger, Kim

Term(s): **11/19/2024 - 11/18/2027**

Employer Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **6**

Lewallen, Stacy

Term(s): **10/5/2023 - 10/4/2026**

Employer Rep

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **7**

Hearn, Ryan Term(s): **4/26/2026 - 4/25/2030**
Employer Rep **4/26/2023 - 4/25/2026**
Appointed By: Governor
Position Number: **8**

Priest, Patrick Term(s): **11/19/2024 - 11/18/2027**
Employer Rep **11/19/2021 - 11/18/2024**
Appointed By: Governor
Position Number: **9**

Duckwall, Sara Term(s): **11/19/2024 - 11/18/2027**
Employer Rep **11/19/2021 - 11/18/2024**
Appointed By: Governor
Position Number: **10**

O'Day, Sean E Term(s): -
DCBS Director
Appointed By: Ex. Officio
Position Number: **11**

Vacant Positions

Pos	Former Member	Appointed By	Term Begin	Term End
1	Bulling, Lorne	Governor	6/5/2024	6/4/2027
1	Allen, Patrick	Ex. Officio		
1	Mr Greenfield, Mike R	Ex. Officio	7/1/1998	