

# A-Engrossed House Bill 4020

Ordered by the House February 16  
Including House Amendments dated February 16

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules for Representative Ben Bowman)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes some agencies tell a permit applicant the legal reason for denial and give a guide about contesting the denial. The Act makes some agencies make a KPM for how fast the agency gives out permits. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.6).

Requires certain agencies to specify the authority justifying the denial of a permit application and provide the applicant a guide on how to contest the denial.

Requires certain agencies to develop a performance measure to measure the timeliness of permit **and permit renewal** processing and issuance.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to permits; and prescribing an effective date.

2 Whereas state permitting processes are often complex and involve multiple steps, documentation  
3 requirements and agency reviews; and

4 Whereas the absence of defined timelines and performance expectations can create uncertainty  
5 for applicants attempting to plan construction, hiring, financing or other time-sensitive activities;  
6 and  
7

8 Whereas without consistent performance measures related to permit timeliness, agencies and  
9 policymakers lack the information necessary to identify bottlenecks, evaluate delays and consider  
10 process improvements; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

12 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2026 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**  
13 **chapter 183.**

14 **SECTION 2. (1) This section applies to the following agencies:**

15 **(a) The Department of Environmental Quality.**

16 **(b) The Department of Transportation.**

17 **(c) The Department of State Lands.**

18 **(d) The State Department of Energy.**

19 **(e) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

20 **(2) When an agency listed in subsection (1) of this section denies an application for a**  
21 **permit, as defined in ORS 183.700, the agency shall specify the statutory or regulatory au-**  
22 **thority justifying the denial and provide the applicant a guide on how to contest the denial**  
23 **and the applicable time limitations for contesting the denial.**

24 **SECTION 3. (1) This section applies to the following agencies:**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) The Department of Environmental Quality.

2 (b) The Department of Transportation.

3 (c) The Department of State Lands.

4 (d) The State Department of Energy.

5 (e) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

6 (2) No later than July 1, 2029, an agency listed in subsection (1) of this section shall de-  
7 velop or identify a performance measure as provided in ORS 291.110 that measures the  
8 timeliness of processing and issuance of permits and renewals of permits. The performance  
9 measure must be accompanied by a description of what slows processing and issuance or  
10 renewal of permits and what steps in the processing of permits take the most time. The  
11 performance measure may be accompanied by suggestions for statutory and other changes  
12 that could accelerate the timelines.

13 (3) On or after July 1, 2039, an agency may reevaluate the usefulness of the performance  
14 measure required by subsection (2) of this section and may discontinue using the perform-  
15 ance measure.

16 SECTION 4. Section 3 of this 2026 Act is repealed on January 2, 2040.

17 SECTION 5. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026  
18 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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