

# B-Engrossed House Bill 4020

Ordered by the House February 27  
Including House Amendments dated February 16 and February 27

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  
2 Relating to permits; and prescribing an effective date.

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

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

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 State Lands.**

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

18 **(d) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

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

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

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

**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       **(b) The Department of State Lands.**

2       **(c) The State Department of Energy.**

3       **(d) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

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

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

14       **SECTION 4.** **Section 3 of this 2026 Act is repealed on January 2, 2040.**

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

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