

House Bill 4143

Sponsored by Representative CHOTZEN, Senator BROADMAN, Representatives GRAYBER, ANDERSEN, CHAICHI, GAMBA, JAVADI, RIEKE SMITH, WALTERS, WISE, Senators CAMPOS, PHAM K; Representatives BOWMAN, EVANS, ISADORE, MARSH, MCDONALD, MUÑOZ, NATHANSON, NELSON, NGUYEN D, PHAM H, Senators GELSER BLOUIN, JAMA, NERON MISSLIN, PROZANSKI, REYNOLDS (Presession filed.)

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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act lets the state not pay money to the U.S. if the U.S. unlawfully keeps money away from the state. (Flesch Readability Score: 76.7).

Authorizes the Governor to direct state agencies to withhold moneys owed to the federal government if federal funds are being withheld from the state in contravention of a valid court order. Requires the state to indemnify officers, employees or agents for civil claims arising from compliance with the Act.

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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to payments to the federal government; and prescribing an effective date.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** **(1) As used in this section:**

4 (a) **“Executive agency”** means all state officers, boards, commissions, departments, in-
5 stitutions, branches, agencies, divisions and other entities, without regard to the designation
6 given to those entities, that are within the executive branch of government as described in
7 Article III, section 1, of the Oregon Constitution.

8 (b) **“Federal government”** means the United States or any agency or instrumentality of
9 the United States.

10 (c) **“Qualified payment”** means moneys that a state agency is obligated to transfer to the
11 federal government pursuant to contract or federal law, but excluding payroll taxes for offi-
12 cers or employees of state agencies.

13 (d) **“State agency”** means every state officer, board, commission, department, institution,
14 branch or agency of the state government, whose costs are paid wholly or in part from funds
15 held in the State Treasury.

16 (e) **“Unlawfully withheld federal moneys”** means moneys that are subject to a valid order
17 of a court of competent jurisdiction requiring the transfer of the moneys from the federal
18 government to a state agency and that have not been so transferred.

19 (2) The Governor, with the consent of the Attorney General and the State Treasurer,
20 may direct an executive agency to withhold qualified payments from the federal government
21 if unlawfully withheld federal moneys are owed to the state.

22 (3) An executive agency that is directed to withhold qualified payments under this section
23 shall transfer the qualified payments to the Federal Moneys Holding Account established
24 under section 2 of this 2026 Act.

25 (4) When the Governor determines that the amount of moneys in the Federal Moneys

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 **Holding Account exceeds the aggregate amount of unlawfully withheld federal moneys, the**
2 **Governor shall:**

3 (a) Direct one or more executive agencies to pay qualified payments to the federal gov-
4 ernment to the extent of the excess; and

5 (b) Direct the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to transfer moneys to the
6 executive agencies from the Federal Moneys Holding Account in amounts sufficient to make
7 the qualified payments.

8 (5) The State of Oregon shall defend, save harmless and indemnify any of its officers,
9 employees and agents, whether elective or appointive, against any civil claim arising out of
10 an act or omission taken in compliance with the provisions of this section.

11 **SECTION 2.** The Federal Moneys Holding Account is established in the State Treasury,
12 separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Federal Moneys Holding
13 Account must be credited to the account. The Federal Moneys Holding Account consists of
14 moneys deposited in the account under section 1 of this 2026 Act and interest earned on
15 moneys in the account. The moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the
16 Oregon Department of Administrative Services. The department shall transfer moneys from
17 the account as directed by the Governor under section 1 of this 2026 Act.

18 **SECTION 3.** This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026
19 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

20 _____