

# Senate Bill 1563

Sponsored by Senators HAYDEN, STARR, Representative DIEHL (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 a person whose civil rights have been violated by a person acting under the color of law sue for damages and other relief. The Act lets a plaintiff who wins this type of suit recover attorney fees. The Act lets a defendant who wins this type of suit recover attorney fees if the plaintiff's claim was frivolous. (Flesch Readability Score: 62.7).

Allows a person who has been deprived of rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Oregon Constitution or the laws of this state by a person acting under color of law to bring a civil action for economic and noneconomic damages and for injunctive or other equitable relief.

Provides for the award of attorney fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff, or to a prevailing defendant if the court finds that a plaintiff's claim was frivolous, unreasonable or without foundation.

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

## 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to civil rights; and prescribing an effective date.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** **(1) Any person who has been deprived of any rights, privileges or immunities**  
5 **secured by Article I of the Oregon Constitution by a person acting under color of law may**  
6 **bring a civil action for economic and noneconomic damages, as defined in ORS 31.705, and**  
7 **for injunctive or other equitable relief.**

8 **(2) ORS 30.260 to 30.300 apply to an action under this section.**

9 **(3)(a) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff**  
10 **in an action under this section.**

11 **(b) The court may award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing defendant in**  
12 **an action under this section only if the court determines that the plaintiff's claim under this**  
13 **section was frivolous, unreasonable or without foundation.**

14 **SECTION 2.** **Section 1 of this 2026 Act applies to deprivations of rights, privileges or im-**  
15 **munities secured by Article I of the Oregon Constitution that occur on or after the effective**  
16 **date of this 2026 Act.**

17 **SECTION 3.** **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.**

19

---

**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.