

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.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to civil rights; and prescribing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2026 Act applies to deprivations of rights, privileges or immunities secured by Article I of the Oregon Constitution that occur on or after the effective date of this 2026 Act.

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

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.