



HB 4125 -- Taking control of the calculation of revenue for the kicker

House Revenue – Jody Wiser – 2.2.2026

With this bill the legislature is taking some control in determining the calculation of the revenue forecast for the kicker law.

Of course, people will argue that the kicker money is the taxpayers' money. And it was, until it was paid, under the progressive personal income structure of our state. Then it became the revenue of the state.

The problem with the kicker is that it relies on an estimate of the economic future more than two years forward. And federal tax law changes, and state tax law changes that might be made during that future.

This bill requires two estimates and allows the state to keep any money that arrives in between those two estimates but puts guardrails on how the money is spent. It must be one time spending.

And there are many options. Pay off debt, build a bridge or pave some roads, build courthouses, install air conditioners in the homes of low-income Oregonians, address our debt, support rural hospitals, place it into PERS to lower costs to public employers. Any of those qualifies. But it must be one-time.

For instance, with \$300 million the legislature could choose to build child care buildings all over the state, fully pay for them, and offer them to operators at the cost only of maintenance, utilities and insurance. But it can't promise to fund the cost of the care that will happen in those buildings.

We think this plan is brilliant and appreciate Rep. Gamba's work to bring it to you. It is the best we've seen for the kicker in 20 some years.

We read the bills and follow the money