



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4143 - RE COURSE Act

House Rules | February 3rd 2026 8:00 AM

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Representative Lamar Wise. I represent House District 48 SE Portland and North Clackamas, and I encourage your support of House Bill 4143.

This bill is about accountability and respect for the rule of law.

HB 4143 applies only in very narrow circumstances, when the federal government has been ordered by a court to release funds owed to Oregon and fails to do so. In those cases, the state should not be left without any recourse while Oregonians absorb the consequences.

This legislation does not authorize retaliation or political decision-making. It requires a valid court order, and it requires the consent of the Governor, the Attorney General, *and* the State Treasurer before any action can be taken. That matters.

If qualified payments are temporarily withheld, they are placed into a segregated holding account, not spent, not repurposed, and not used for unrelated state needs. Payroll taxes are *explicitly* excluded, and the bill requires excess funds to be released once amounts are balanced.

The goal here is not conflict. The goal is continuity.

- Continuity of services.
- Continuity of funding for critical programs.
- And continuity of trust in our legal system.

When federal funds are unlawfully withheld, the impacts are real. They affect health care, education, disaster recovery, and the local governments that rely on those dollars to serve our communities.

HB 4143 provides a lawful tool to protect Oregon taxpayers and uphold court authority, while maintaining our commitment to good-faith federal partnerships.

Court orders should mean something. This bill helps ensure that they do.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 4143.

Thank you.