



OREGON LAW COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date: Friday, June 5, 2026 (10 am)
Location: Zoom
Chair Valerie Sasaki
Commissioners: Valerie Sasaki, Benjamin Gutman, Representative Kim Wallan, Judge Mary James, Justice Rebecca Duncan, Dean Sandy Patrick, Professor Kristen Bell, Chief Judge Erin Lagesen, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Eva Kripalani, Representative Willy Chotzen
Unable to Attend: Cody Hoesly, Christa Obold Eshleman, Dean Jeffrey Dobbins, Representative Jason Kropf, John DiLorenzo
Staff: Amy Zubko, Jared Rumsey, Gracie Schweitzer, Nora Robison
Guests: Dexter Johnson (LC), Channa Newell (OJD), Derek Sangston (OBI), Lane Shetterly (E-wills)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sasaki opened the meeting and led introductions of the Commissioners, guests, and the Commission's summer legal research aides: Nora Robison, Gracie Schweitzer and Jared Rumsey. and Chair Sasaki thanked them for their work with the Commission.

2. Minutes

Chair Sasaki asked whether there were any edits or questions about the March meeting minutes, and none were raised. Judge James made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Gutman. The minutes were approved without opposition.

3. Executive Session

The Commission adjusted the agenda to move the executive session before the financial discussion. Amy Zubko placed the Commissioners into a Zoom breakout room for the executive session roughly five and a half minutes into the meeting. The Commission reconvened in the main Zoom meeting approximately forty-four minutes into the meeting.

4. Financials

Director Compensation. Chair Sasaki stated that the Commission had a proposal to increase the Director's salary to \$150,000 effective July 1, 2026, and to \$165,000

effective July 1, 2027, with benefits in both cases. She shared that the raises are in recognition of the increased scope and scale of the position. Judge James moved approval of the Director compensation proposal, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gutman, and the motion passed without opposition.

2027-2029 Budget. Amy Zubko provided an update on preparation of the Commission's proposed 2027-2029 budget. Ms. Zubko explained that the Commission's budget is a line item in the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) budget and that the proposed current service level increase for the 2027-2029 biennium was 9.3%, bringing the proposed biennial amount to \$426,036. Ms. Zubko stated that the Commission expected that amount to be included in the Oregon Judicial Department draft budget bill and discussed during the 2027 legislative session.

Legal Fellow Policy Option Package. Ms. Zubko discussed a policy option package (POP) for additional funding for a limited-duration, postgraduate legal fellow position. She shared that the Commission had reserve funds that could support a one-year pilot and that the requested amount was approximately \$220,000 for the biennium. In response to a question, Ms. Zubko stated that the position was expected to pay approximately \$65,000 per year, plus benefits. Chair Sasaki made a motion to adopt the POP and submit to the Oregon Judicial Department for consideration by the Oregon Legislature. The motion was seconded by Judge James and the motion passed without opposition.

Director Compensation Policy Option Package. The Commission considered a separate policy option package to cover the increased cost of the Director's salary and benefits. Commissioner Gutman made a motion to submit a POP to increase the director's compensation which was seconded by Sen. Floyd Prozanski. The motion passed without opposition.

10 Percent Reduction Plan. Ms. Zubko discussed a 10% reduction plan and stated that the Commission would propose holding the part-time administrative position vacant to meet the reduction, if necessary. Justice Duncan asked whether there was a limit on how long the position could remain vacant before the Commission would lose the funding for the position, and Ms. Zubko stated that she would follow up with the Commission. Commissioner Gutman made a motion to adopt the 10% reduction plan, if needed, and Judge James seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

5. Administration/Governance Update

Commissioner Job Description. Chair Sasaki explained that a small group of commissioners, former commissioners, and other interested persons had been discussing updates to the Commission's policies and procedures. Chair Sasaki stated

that a proposed Commissioner job description had been circulated and explained that it reflected existing responsibilities and statutory provisions concerning attendance and participation. Commissioner Kripalani moved to approve the job description and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gutman. The motion passed without opposition.

Program Committee Policies and Procedures. Ms. Zubko reported that the Administration and Governance subcommittee had reviewed the Commission's Policies and Procedures with a focus on the Program Committee. Mark Comstock, who was unable to attend the Commission meeting, was unable to attend the meeting, but had taken on the responsibility of updating the policies and procedures. Ms. Zubko explained that the proposed revisions:

- Identified the Vice Chair as the default Program Committee Chair,
- Formalized Program Committee membership,
- Changed the proposal submission deadline to no later than 60 days before a Program Committee meeting,
- Updated public records references, and
- Changed the Commission's parliamentary authority from Mason's Manual to Robert's Rules of Order.

Senator Prozanski stated that Robert's Rules of Order is more consistent with the type of work the Commission does.

Chief Judge Lagesen suggested clarifying the Program Committee membership language to state that the Committee would include five members, at least three of whom would be current commissioners. Judge James made a motion to adopt the updated language with Chief Judge Lagesen's clarification. Dean Patrick seconded to adopt the Program Committee policies and procedures with that adjustment. The motion passed without opposition.

Chair and Vice Chair Election. Ms. Zubko reminded the Commission that, under the policies and procedures, the Commission is expected to elect a Chair and a Vice Chair at the first meeting after July 1 of an even-numbered year. Ms. Zubko invited commissioners interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair to contact her before the September meeting. Chair Sasaki stated that she was willing to continue serving as Chair but would also welcome interest from other commissioners.

6. Work Group Updates

Electronic Wills Work Group. Lane Shetterly reported that the E-Wills Work Group was going well and had spent several meetings learning about the technology and mechanics involved in electronic wills. Mr. Shetterly stated that the work group had begun reviewing the language of the Uniform Act and that he expected the work

group to present an act to the Commission by the end of the year, hopefully in time for introduction in the 2027 legislative session. Mr. Shetterly noted that the principal issue may be unfamiliarity with electronic wills and questions about safety, security, fraud, and abuse, rather than difficulty with the statutory drafting itself. Mr. Shetterly highlighted the importance of addressing this inevitable topic before it became an issue in an advancing technological world.

Municipal and Justice Courts Work Group. Judge James reported that the Municipal and Justice Courts Work Group had been meeting since November 2025 and had held both full work group sessions and small group sessions. Judge James stated that the work group had reached consensus on two issues requiring statutory updates:

- Creating a process for waiver of undertakings and
- Removing the 50-mile limitation on justice courts becoming courts of record.

Judge James also stated that the work group continued to discuss whether violations should be appealed under ORS chapter 19 or ORS chapter 138, where records of abolished local courts should reside, whether certain municipal-court appeals should be limited, and issues involving transfers between local courts and circuit courts. Judge James stated that the work group was aware of legislative timing and intended to seek as much closure as possible on the remaining issues.

Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act Work Group. Chair Sasaki reported that the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act Work Group had continued discussing partition actions, notice, and approaches in other states. Chair Sasaki stated that she expected the work group to bring forward a bill proposal for the next session and thanked Robert Magher in Legislative Counsel for his work. Chair Sasaki explained that the work group had focused on Section 7, which addresses how a proceeding would move through the courts, and that a flowchart would be incorporated into the bill report.

LLC Act Work Group. Chair Sasaki reported that the LLC Act Work Group remained a proposal for reintroduction and that Ms. Zubko had been having discussions with the Secretary of State about system issues. Chair Sasaki stated that the Commission had asked the Secretary of State for a list of issues giving rise to the fiscal impact statement and was awaiting information. Chair Sasaki stated that the bill was expected to be reintroduced in the next session.

Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group. Ms. Zubko reported that the Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group would hold its first meeting on June 30 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Zubko stated that she had reached out to potential participants, that Lori Anne Sills would serve as the Legislative Counsel drafter, and that the work group was not aiming for a 2027 proposal.

7. Projects under Discussion

Public Meetings. Ms. Zubko reported that the public meetings project previously discussed by the Commission would not be submitted as a Commission proposal. Representative Wallan noted that a legislative work group on the topic was meeting the following week.

Juvenile Law. Ms. Zubko reported that the Commission had been approached about an issue involving ORS chapters 418 and 419B related to child abuse and child welfare. Ms. Zubko stated that she had discussed the issue with Judge Lagesen and Christa Obold Eshleman and had requested more information, but that no proposal had been received.

8. Workplan

Ms. Zubko stated that the workplan circulated to the Commission runs through December 2026. Ms. Zubko explained that the Commission's priority is preparing four bills for the 2027 legislative session, and where possible, having those bills pre-session filed. Ms. Zubko stated that the Commission was exploring a social event in Salem during either the September or December Legislative Days that could coincide with an informational legislative hearing about Commission proposals.

9. Updated November/December 2026 Schedule

Ms. Zubko reported that the December Full Commission meeting would be moved to November 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. because of the Legislative Days schedule and related calendar issues. Ms. Zubko stated that the proposed Program Committee meeting date was December 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., after Legislative Days. Ms. Zubko also noted that the September Full Commission meeting remained on the calendar and that the 2027 meeting dates would be discussed at the September meeting.

10. For the Good of the Order

Chair Sasaki asked whether there was anything further for the good of the order, and no additional items were raised. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the motion passed without opposition. Chair Sasaki adjourned the meeting.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 10, 2026
(SENT BY EMAIL)

Amy Zubko, Director
Valerie Sasaki, Chair
Oregon Law Commission Program Committee

Dear Director Zubko, Chair Sasaki, and members of the Program Committee,

Please find below a proposal for a workgroup examining Oregon's child abuse statutes.

Problem

Identify the specific issue to be studied or addressed by the Commission and explain the adverse consequences of current law. An illustration from real life might be helpful.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), alongside law enforcement, is responsible for investigating reports of suspected child abuse. Under current law and practices, investigations of reports of suspected child abuse that occur in a child's home and when a child is with a care provider are investigated differently and by different entities. Reports of suspected abuse involving a child's family are investigated by Child Protective Services, an arm of ODHS' Child Welfare Division. These investigations are the impetus for opening a child welfare case involving a child and family and may result in provision of in-home support services, out-of-home placement in foster care, termination of parental rights, or further actions in juvenile dependency court (ORS 419B.005).

Investigations involving children and youth under 21 who are currently under the care of professional caregivers in child-caring agencies, certified foster homes, and developmental disabilities residential facilities are handled differently both in practice and in law. For these "children in care," investigations of abuse, including improper use of restraint and seclusion, are handled by the ODHS' Office of Trainings, Investigations, and Safety (OTIS), and consequences resulting from the investigation may result in civil penalties, licensing restrictions, and legal actions taken against the entities providing the care (ORS 418.257 to 418.259; ORS 418.519 to 418.532). OTIS is also responsible for investigating abuse that occurs in child care and educational settings and abuse by third parties that are not a child's parent or family member (OAR 413-015-0215).



At the root of many challenges are two statutory problems that define how Oregon's child welfare system operates. First, Oregon substantiates child abuse based on "reasonable cause to believe," a threshold the Court of Appeals has equated with reasonable suspicion—the same minimal standard used to screen reports in for investigation.

In part, due to the fact that substantiation can rest on suspicion alone, Oregon substantiates child abuse at unusually high rates, with significant county-by-county variation, and sometimes without gathering the level of evidence needed to meet the preponderance standard the juvenile court requires to assert jurisdiction and order services. Families bear lasting consequences of substantiation, including placement on the child abuse registry, even when ODHS lacks sufficient evidence to secure court jurisdiction to require parental participation in services.

Second, Oregon's threatened harm abuse category is defined far more broadly than the standard applied by Oregon appellate courts or federal principles. Although statute frames threatened harm as any "substantial risk of harm," courts consistently require ODHS to prove a current, serious, and likely threat before they can assert jurisdiction.

The gap between the statute and judicial interpretation has made "threatened harm" Oregon's most frequently substantiated and most frequently overturned category, contributing to high substantiation rates, uneven application across counties, and disproportionate intervention in Black, Native, disabled, low-income, and domestic violence survivor families. These inequities stem from the breadth and ambiguity of the statutory definition, which allows concerning conditions to be labeled as abuse even when they do not meet the legal threshold for state intervention.

For children in care, definitions of abuse differ based on the setting they're in. As an example, imagine a foster child – when they're at school, the definitions of abuse in ORS 419B apply; however, when they're at their foster/resource home, the definitions of abuse in ORS 418 apply.

An additional problem facing the state is the use of temporary lodging for children in ODHS Child Welfare's custody when an appropriate placement cannot be found. Finding placement for children with complex behavioral health needs is a challenge ODHS faces. While there have been efforts to increase behavioral health capacity, it has been documented by the System of Care Advisory Council that behavioral health providers turn away children with complex behavioral health needs in Child Welfare's custody in part due to concerns with liability. They point to Oregon's definitions of child abuse in ORS 418, which is about "children in care."

In previous efforts to reform this system through legislation, there are two critical bottlenecks:

1. Different parties (the Legislature, Executive Branch, stakeholders) have different interpretations of legal terms currently in statute and in proposed legislation; and

2. Because the statutory framework is fragmented, any changes to the law may have rippling effects, and there are lots of fears around unintended consequences.

ORS 418.257 includes the full definition of abuse, and other terms like “adjudicated youth foster home”

The Oregon Law Commission can look to existing policy recommendations, such as the HB 4086 studies ([here](#) and [here](#)) on these issues; however, we do request that additional analysis and stakeholder engagement occur. A rewrite of ORS 418 and 419B is requested to ensure our laws are clear, reduce regulatory complexity, support families, and above all, protect children.

History of Reform Efforts

Explain past efforts to address the problem and the success or limitations of those efforts.

2019: SB 171 codifies the federal Family First Prevention Services Act into Oregon law; SB 155 gives the Office of Trainings, Investigations and Safety authority over child abuse investigations in school settings.

2021: SB 710 makes rules on use of restraint and seclusion more robust. On August 6, 2021, Governor Brown signed the bill, but issued a letter noting concerns from child caring agencies: “They raised concerns that we will see an increase in children who are turned away from services, and programs that will no longer serve those with the highest needs. They are also concerned that the legislation will further exacerbate hiring challenges and retention of staff.”

2023: SB 790 added use of restraint and seclusion to the definition of abuse.

2024: HB 4086 required ODHS to commission a study on the scope of child abuse investigations in Oregon, and take a multidisciplinary look at the statewide response to children who exhibit complex sexual behavior.

2025: There were a number of competing bills during the 2025 session. HB 3835, developed by the System of Care Advisory Council, was introduced. SB 1113, sponsored by Senator Gelser Blouin, was also introduced. Different parties (the Legislature, Executive Branch, stakeholders) had different interpretations of legal terms currently in statute and in the proposed legislation. This was a huge barrier in moving conversations forward. Two other bills, SB 736 and SB 875, passed the House and the Senate, but these bills were vetoed by Governor Kotek, who in her [veto letter](#) stated “both SB 875 and SB 736 exemplify the risks of fragmented policymaking in this area, adding new statutory layers without a unified framework for who is a victim, who is a perpetrator, when abuse occurs, and where it falls under the law. These are the exact questions that the House Bill 4086 (2024) Child Abuse Statutory Alignment Workgroup is tackling) We must allow the workgroup to share its recommendations in advance of future policy decisions.

2026: HB 4059, sponsored by Representative Hartman, was introduced. This bill would have modified the definition of child abuse, required ODHS to investigate a report of child abuse



only when the alleged perpetrator is a specified individual, and raised the standard to substantiate a finding of child abuse.

Scope of Project

Explain what needs to be studied, evaluated or changed to fix the problem. In what form will the final product likely be? A written recommendation, rule, statute, etc.?

The project would include an examination of Oregon's child abuse investigation process. The final product would be a report on policy decisions and a statutory draft concept streamlining ORS 418 and 419B for introduction as legislation in the 2029 legislative session.

Timeline of Project

What is the desired timeline to complete this project? If legislation is to be brought, during what legislative session would it be introduced?

If the Oregon Law Commission approves a work group for this project, the ideal timeline is to begin this workgroup in the fall of 2026, meeting monthly as needed, through the fall of 2028 for proposed legislation for the 2029 legislative session.

Law Commission Involvement

Explain why the issue is a good subject for law reform of broad general interest and need (as opposed to an issue likely to be advanced by a single interest group or lobby).

Oregon's abuse statutes have the potential to impact every Oregonian. Clarity in the law would be beneficial to all parties involved, including children, parents and caregivers, and people working with children in any capacity.

We believe the Oregon Law Commission is an appropriate venue to look holistically at Oregon's child abuse framework, analyze current statutory definitions, and make recommendations on how to 1) ensure our definitions of abuse are keeping children safe and 2) clarify and streamline our fragmented statute.

This is an area of law with many nuances and intricacies that will involve many viewpoints and will need time and space to do the necessary research.

Project Participants

Identify individuals who are willing to serve on a Work Group, and a Reporter who is willing to work with the Chair of the Work Group to draft a Report and Comments. The Chair of the Work Group should be a Commissioner. The Proposal may state a preference for a chair.

Chair: Suggestions for Chair are welcomed

Reporter: Suggestions for Reporter are welcomed

Members: We have not identified specific individuals yet, but believe the following interested groups should be brought into the work:

- Asante Health Network
- Casey Family Programs
- Disability Rights Oregon
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health (GOBHI)
- J Bar J Youth Services
- Options Counseling and Family Services
- Oregon Alliance
- Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
- Oregon CASA Network
- Oregon Community Programs
- Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Oregon District Attorneys Association
- Oregon Family Support Network
- Oregon Judicial Department
- Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
- Oregon Children Oregon
- Prevent Child Abuse Oregon
- Providence
- SEIU Local 503
- System of Care Advisory Council
- Youth, Rights & Justice

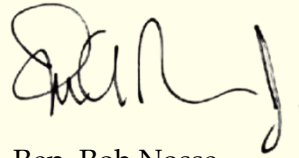
Additionally, the group would welcome additional voices of participants or representatives of children impacted by the Child Welfare system, along with any other voices the Oregon Law Commission deems appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rep. Julie Fahey
Speaker of the Oregon House of
Representatives



Rep. Rob Nosse
Chair, House Committee on Health Care



Rep. Tawna Sanchez
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and
Means



Sen. Deb Patterson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care



Rep. Hai Pham
Chair, House Committee on Behavioral
Health



Sen. Lisa Reynolds
Chair, Senate Committee on Early
Childhood and Behavioral Health



From the Office of
THE SENATE PRESIDENT

July 28, 2026

Delivered via email

Amy Zubko, Director
Valerie Sasaki, Chair
Oregon Law Commission Program Committee

Dear Director Zubko, Chair Sasaki, and members of the Program Committee,

I am writing today to share my thoughts on the proposal before you to review the child welfare statutes contained in ORS Chapters 418 and 419B. I apologize because I was not able to get this to you in advance of your meeting last week. While I had discussions about the proposal, I had not seen the contents of a letter prior to it coming to you and was out of the country last week.

In terms of the considerations I reviewed in deciding whether I would support this request - ultimately, I have concluded that the Oregon Law Commission is not the appropriate venue to review this set of policy concerns at this time.

My primary concern relates to the timing and the scope of the proposal. Oregon is not unique in recognizing the need to modernize child welfare laws. This is a challenge many states are facing and has been a topic of broad conversation in the Oregon Legislature over the last few years in particular.

The legislature is currently engaged in multiple layers of policy review, including two large, open work groups organized by the Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee Senator Sara Gelser-Blouin. It is my understanding that progress is being made in those discussions, though it is understandably uncertain how far the workgroups will reach in terms of consensus in advance of the 2027 legislative session.

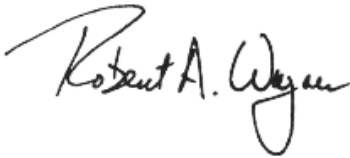
In my consideration, I also reviewed the purpose of the Law Commission, established in 1997, and the types of projects undertaken over the years. It is my understanding that the Law Commission was established to review and address technical and structural issues with the construction of Oregon law. This proposal appears to ask the law commission to wade into complicated policy choices that are more rightly vested in the legislature.

Unlike other proposals the Law Commission considers, there is no Uniform Law Commission recommendation or consensus approach across the country. This proposal appears to ask the Commission to address more than just modifying or eliminating antiquated and inequitable rules of law. I am concerned about the precedence this proposal might establish for other future policy debates.

I understand the Program Committee has asked for a work plan and stakeholder list before taking this issue under further consideration. At minimum, I would ask the law commission to delay consideration until the legislature can further engage in substantive policy conversations and review whether additional progress can be made in the 2027 legislative session.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "W".

Robert A. Wagner
Oregon Senate President

August 18, 2026

VALERIE H. SASAKI
vsasaki@SamuelsLaw.com

By Electronic Mail

Speaker Julie Fahey
Oregon House of Representatives
Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov

***Re: Oregon Law Commission
Proposal re Child Abuse Statutes***

Dear Speaker Fahey:

Thank you for your proposal to the Oregon Law Commission of July 10, 2026. Child abuse investigation and reporting is a difficult subject to approach and I have a great deal of respect for you and our other elected officials who are prioritizing the safety of Oregon's children. As a mandatory reporter myself, I particularly appreciate the value of clarity in this area and how these issues can have an impact on every Oregonian.

Carol Crum with your office did an excellent job presenting your proposal for the reform of Oregon's Child Abuse statutes at the Program Committee's scheduled meeting on July 24, 2026. I appreciated their willingness to answer the various questions that the Program Committee members posed with thoughtful, complete answers.

The Oregon Law Commission process is necessarily inclusive. It is both helpful and boring in a world where so many discussions are both unhelpful and overly dramatic. The Commission's role is to provide a framework that facilitates useful, productive discussions between people holding different perspectives. This results in consensus (or as near consensus as possible) legislative proposals. It has historically been quite common for us to work with the Oregonians who bring us proposals to ensure that the resulting workgroup and its work product have the highest possibility of success. As part of this process, we develop a workplan and identify the lawyers and other "certified smart people" who need to be a part of those discussions.

At our July meeting, the Oregon Law Commission's Program Committee voted in support of continuing our dialogue about this proposal with your office, Senate President Wagner's office, legislators including Senator Gelser Blouin, and other key stakeholders, many of whom you identified in your proposal. It is my hope that we can continue to work with Carol and members of your team to develop an actionable plan that identifies workgroup members, sets forth a tightly-defined set of objectives, and is respectful of the legislature's important policy decisions.

Thank you again for bringing the Oregon Law Commission this important proposal. We look forward to our continued discussions in support of improving Oregon's laws with respect to child abuse reporting and prevention. If you have any questions about the above or if the members of the Oregon Law Commission can do anything to help, you may reach me at 503-226-2966.

Sincerely,



Valerie H. Sasaki, Chair
Oregon Law Commission

VHS/

83049-00019:2279921

Cc: Amy Zubko, Director, Oregon Law Commission (azubko@oregon.edu)
Carol Crum, Deputy Legislative Director (Carol.Crum@oregonlegislature.gov)
Senator Robert A. Wagner (Sen.RobWagner@oregonlegislature.gov)
Senator Sara Gelser Blouin (Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov)
Oregon Law Commissioner and Senator Floyd Prozanski
(Sen.FloydProzanski@oregonlegislature.gov)
Oregon Law Commissioner and Representative Jason Kropf
(Rep.JasonKropf@oregonlegislature.gov)
Oregon Law Commissioner and Representative Kim Wallen
(Rep.KimWallan@oregonlegislature.gov)



OREGON LAW COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2027
Quarters 1 and 2
July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Rev. Date: 09/21/2026

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Statutory Authority

ORS 173.315. “(1) The Oregon Law Commission is established to conduct a continuous substantive law revision program as described in ORS 173.338 (Law revision program).”

ORS 173.338. “(1) The law revision program conducted by the Oregon Law Commission may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Review of the common law and statutes of the state, and current judicial decisions, for the purpose of discovering defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (b) Consideration of changes in the law recommended by the American Law Institute, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, any bar association or other learned bodies.
- (c) Consideration of suggestions from judges, justices, public officials, lawyers and the public generally as to defects and anachronisms in the law.
- (d) Recommendation for changes in the law that the commission considers necessary to modify or eliminate antiquated and inequitable rules of law and to bring the law of Oregon into harmony with modern conditions.
- (e) Recommendation for the express repeal of statutes repealed by implication or held unconstitutional by state and federal courts.

(2) The commission shall study any topic that the Legislative Assembly, by law or concurrent resolution, refers to the commission. [1997 c.661 §3; 2009 c.114 §6]”

FY 2027 Goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Based)

Topic		Success Looks Like
1. Law Improvement (ORS 173.338 (a), (b))		Become the pre-eminent law improvement vehicle in Oregon
a. Completion of major existing law improvement projects		Electronic Wills Act Work Group, LLC Act, Partition of Heirs Property Act, Municipal and Justice Court Work Group
b. Review approved law improvement projects		Electronic Wills Act Work Group, LLC Act, Partition of Heirs Property Act, Municipal and Justice Court Work Group, Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group
c. Develop Pipeline of law improvement projects		Juvenile law, Expungement, ORS 418 and ORS 419A
2. Policy Questions (ORS 173.338 (c), (d))		Become a multi-disciplinary forum for thought leadership in Oregon
a. Educate judges, justices, public officials, lawyers, and public on role of OLC		- Schedule Fall 2026 Event in Salem - Work with Committee Chairs and LPRO to provide informational hearing at Legislature in Fall 2026. Completed.
b. Develop policy analysis model building on OLC process		
c. Solicit policy questions		- Work with organizations and individuals who have expressed interest in bringing a proposal to the Oregon Law Commission. <u>Ongoing.</u> - Research proposals as they are submitted to the Commission. <u>Ongoing.</u>
3. Entity Governance:		Restore mechanisms for effective governance and be effective stewards of the Oregon Law Commission
a. Staff development		- Hire 3 summer legal research aides. <u>Completed.</u> - Hire limited duration legal fellow. <u>On hold.</u>
b. Board development		Continue to update OLC Policies and Procedures. <u>Ongoing.</u>
c. Financial Accountability		Develop effective financial statements; discuss financial statements at Commission meetings;

		Commission review and approval of budget proposals and support for OJD budget process. <u>Ongoing.</u>
d. UO Partnership		Outreach to UO Law School administration, faculty, and students to increase understanding of OLC and opportunities to collaborate on work groups and student engagement. <u>Ongoing.</u>
e. Develop a 5-year plan for the OLC		Identify stakeholders; consider statutory expectations. <u>Ongoing.</u>

FY2027 Q1 and Q2 (July 1–December 31, 2026) Goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based)

Important Dates in Q1 and Q2:

Meeting Dates:	Commission Meeting Dates: Friday, September 25, 2026 at 10 am Friday, November 20, 2026 at 10 am Program Committee Meeting Dates: Friday, July 24, 2026. <u>Completed.</u> Friday, December 11, 2026
Goal Check in Dates:	- October 1, 2026 - December 1, 2026
Other Important Dates (including planned PTO):	Important Dates: 11/3/26 (General Election) 11/18/26 (Revenue Forecast) 12/1/26 (LC Return Deadline) 12/1/26–12/3/26 (Legislative Days) 12/11/26 (Pre-Session Filing Deadline) Holidays: 11/11/26 (Veterans Day) 11/26/26 (Thanksgiving) 12/25/26 (Christmas) 12/31/26 (New Years Eve) Amy Zubko PTO: 11/11/26–11/13/26 11/23/26–11/27/26 12/21/26–12/31/26

Q1 and Q2 Goals

1. Q1 and Q2 Law Improvement Goals:		• Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Monthly meetings and draft of legislative language and introduction and areas the group discussed but decided not to update; Submit to Commission November 2026 for consideration. Submit to Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing as Committee bill • RULLCA Work Group: Discussion and draft of updated statutory language and report. Submit to Commission November 2026 for consideration. Submit to Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing as Committee bill • Electronic Wills Work Group: Wrap up monthly meetings and draft language and report. Submit to Commission November 2026 for consideration; Submit to Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing as Committee bill • Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Wrap up monthly meetings and draft language and report. Submit to Commission November 2026 for consideration. Submit to Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing as Committee bill • Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Draft work plan and schedule meetings for 2026
2. Q1 and Q2 Policy Improvement Goals:		• Schedule Fall 2026 Event in Salem • Work with Committee Chairs and LPRO to provide informational hearing at Legislature in fall 2026. Completed. • Work with organizations and individuals who have expressed interest in bringing a proposal to the Oregon Law Commission; research proposals as they are submitted to the Commission. Completed.
3. Q1 and Q2 Governance Goals		• Post administrative role and post-grad role. On hold. • Continue to update website. Ongoing. • Continue to work on Administrative and Governance Issues. Ongoing.

Q1 and Q2 Law Improvement Goals

In July and August, we will:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Discuss the treatment of records from abolished local courts. Ongoing.
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	Wrap up any remaining open questions (transfers, conditional pleas). <u>Have not begun.</u> RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. <u>Drafting in process after discussions with Oregon Secretary of State's office.</u> Electronic Wills Work Group: Monthly work group meetings to discuss Act with a goal of completing discussions in the fall. <u>Work group in review process for draft language.</u> Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Wrap up monthly work group meetings and finalize language. <u>Work group to review updated draft language at September meeting.</u> Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Work with group to develop work plan. <u>Completed.</u>
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Heavier effect of summer travel on schedule additional meetings for the small group process RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Summer travel; questions arising from OJD on process Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Additional questions about Section 7; summer travel. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Heavier effect of summer travel on schedule additional meetings for the small group process
Things that we will do to plan for success:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Schedule in May for June, July, and August small group meetings. RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Work with Legislative Counsel to answer drafting

	questions; check in with OJD for process questions Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Small group discussion with LC and ULC Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Schedule small group work plan meetings at initial meetings
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Feedback from OJD and counties RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Questions from LC (done); feedback from OJD Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Time to discuss questions with LC and ULC Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Time and a few opportunities to meet during the summer
We will know we’ve met this goal if:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: We wrap up the remaining open questions RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Discussion held and decisions reached concerning LC and OJD questions Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Section 7 questions answered Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Work Plan completed in time for a September 2026 meeting
In September and October, we will:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Wrap up any loose ends; complete report in October for November 20, 2026 OLC Commission meeting; begin legislative outreach. RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Wrap up any loose ends; complete report in October for

	November 20, 2026 OLC Commission meeting; begin legislative outreach. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Wrap up any loose ends; complete report in October for November 20, 2026 OLC Commission meeting; begin legislative outreach. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Begin holding monthly meetings.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Unanswered questions from stakeholders; LC’s internal drafting deadlines and the Commission’s report drafting deadlines may require the project to wrap up. If final decisions on statutory language have not been completed, it may be more difficult to complete the outreach. RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Unanswered questions from stakeholders. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Unanswered questions from stakeholders. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Work plan drafting takes longer than expected.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Prioritize issues identified by commissioners; schedule opportunities for feedback on draft language and report RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Work with OJD to get questions by early summer to identify areas of interest, schedule opportunities for feedback on draft language and report Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Coordinate with ULC, LC, and work group leadership; schedule opportunities for feedback on draft language and report Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Schedule early and often; identify a

	summer staffer to prioritize work plan development
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Communication from concept proponents to educate work group members on concerns and identified issues; additional meetings scheduled for report review by work group members RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Work group to respond to questions from stakeholders to allow for drafting of both statutory language and report. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Work group to determine if Section 7 questions have been answered; opportunity to review and provide feedback on proposed statutory language and report. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Opportunity for feedback; resources as identified in the work plan
We will know we've met this goal if:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Drafting is completed for both statutory language and report by the end of October. RULLCA Work Group: Continue to work towards the introduction of the LLC Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. Electronic Wills Work Group: Drafting is completed for both statutory language and report by the end of October. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Drafting is completed for both statutory language and report by the end of October. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Monthly meetings are scheduled and held.
In November and December, we will:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Submit the statutory language and report to the Commission and potentially to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing. Outreach.

	RULLCA Work Group: Submit the statutory language and report to the Commission and potentially to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing. Outreach. Electronic Wills Work Group: Submit the statutory language and report to the Commission and potentially to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing. Outreach. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Submit the statutory language and report to the Commission and potentially to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees for pre-session filing. Outreach. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Monthly meetings are held and the work group continues to move forward.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Concerns arising from the LC language or the draft report; not enough time to check in with stakeholders RULLCA Work Group: Concerns arising from the LC language or the draft report; not enough time to check in with stakeholders Electronic Wills Work Group: Concerns arising from the LC language or the draft report; not enough time to check in with stakeholders Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Concerns arising from the LC language or the draft report; not enough time to check in with stakeholders Not enough time to check in with stakeholders. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Busy schedules; preparations for the 2027 legislative session
Things that we will do to plan for success:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Outreach in October and November; prioritize early drafting RULLCA Work Group: Outreach in October and November; prioritize early drafting Electronic Wills Work Group: Outreach in October and November; prioritize early drafting

	Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Outreach in October and November; prioritize early drafting Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Schedule ahead; check in early with drafter and work group members involved with the legislative process and work with their schedules
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: Time to complete outreach; one-pagers RULLCA Work Group: Time to complete outreach; one-pagers Electronic Wills Work Group: Time to complete outreach; one-pagers Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: Time to complete outreach; one-pagers Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Time and information on work group member schedules.
We will know we’ve met this goal if:	Municipal and Justice Court 2025–2027 Work Group: The bill is pre-session filed during December Legislative Days. RULLCA Work Group: The bill is pre-session filed during December Legislative Days. Electronic Wills Work Group: The bill is pre-session filed during December Legislative Days. Partition of Heirs Property Work Group: The bill is pre-session filed during December Legislative Days. Simple Estate Affidavit Criteria Work Group: Meetings are scheduled for Q3 and Q4 of FY 2027.

Q1 and Q2 Policy Goals

In July and August, we will:	• Fall 2026 Event in Salem/Informational Hearing. Reach out to Willamette and to LPRO to discuss possible dates/times for presentations; work with work group chairs to incorporate their schedules as well. <u>Completed.</u>
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	• Respond to Proposals. Schedule a December Program Committee meeting.; distribute proposals for the July 2026 Program Committee meeting. <u>Completed.</u>
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Fall Event: Legislative Days schedule may not be finalized at this time. • Respond to Proposals: Program Committee membership and updated guidelines may need to be confirmed first.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Fall Event: Work with the information we have. • Respond to Proposals. Ensure quorum for June 5, 2026 meeting. Distribute materials early.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Fall Event: Legislative Days schedule of committee meetings as soon as available. • Respond to Proposals: Communicate as often as necessary with proponents and Commission members/Program Committee members.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Fall Event: Identified a day/time for event; worked with Willamette to schedule. Respond to Proposals: Distributed any proposals two weeks before the Program Committee meeting. Distributed dates for December Program Committee meeting with materials for July meeting.
In September and October, we will:	• Fall Event: Hold event during September Legislative Days; present to Judiciary Committees. <u>Presentation to Judiciary Committees completed.</u> • Respond to Proposals: Begin outreach if needed after July Program Committee meeting; <u>Completed.</u> Continue communication with interested parties with proposals in preparation for December meeting; if new guidelines are adopted; distribute proposals 60 days prior to the December meeting.

What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Fall Event: Willamette not available, no time available on Committee schedules. • Respond to Proposals: No proposals in July; no proposals in December.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Fall Event: Early outreach • Respond to Proposals: Continue to respond to outreach; work with Commissioners to identify their areas of interest.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Fall Event: Schedule the fall event in December during December Legislative Days. • Respond to Proposals: Prepare for the December Program Committee meeting.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Fall Event: Host an event and present to interim committees. • Respond to Proposals: Respond and begin to develop a bench of proposals

In November and December, we will:	• Fall Event: Host an event and present to interim committees. • Respond to Proposals: Host a Program Committee meeting.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Fall Event: Schedules are too tight as we run up to the 2027 Legislative Session. • Respond to Proposals: We do not receive any proposals.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Fall Event: Hopefully host event and present during September Legislative Days. • Respond to Proposals: Work with Commissioners on bench of proposals to consider during 2027 and begin after legislative session.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Fall Event: Location, budget, and guests. • Respond to Proposals: A time that works for Program Committee members; proposals.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Fall Event: Host an event and present to interim committees if needed.

	• Respond to Proposals: Host a Program Committee meeting.
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Q1 and Q2 Governance Goals

In July and August, we will:	• Summer Staff: Introduce research assistants to legislative process, legislative research, assign students to work groups. LRAs identify and support work groups through the summer, develop understanding of policy and work group process. <u>Completed.</u> • Legal Fellow: Submit Legal Fellow posting to UO. <u>On hold.</u> • Budgeting: Update OLC budgeting information with updated information from 2025 Legislative Session. If Commission approves the submission of POP, finalize materials for August deadline. <u>Completed.</u>
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer Staff: Getting HR onboarding complete, Commission priorities taking up more time than expected; managing the five work groups • Legal Fellow: UO HR process takes longer than expected. • Budgeting: Commission does not approve POP submission.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer Staff: Scheduling meetings early; communication with UO HR. • Legal Fellow: Communication with UO HR. • Budgeting: Post proposal and speak with Commission members about the POP.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer Staff: Paperwork back from summer staff and provided to UO as needed. • Legal Fellow: Approval from UO HR. • Budgeting: Most recent financial statements from UO; benchmark materials from similar organizations.

We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer Staff: Everyone is onboarded by the middle of June; LRAs staffing work groups and drafting report materials by mid-July • Legal Fellow: Job is posted in July/August. • Budgeting: POP and CSL is approved by the Commission at June meeting. Materials finalized in August.
In September and October, we will:	• Summer Staff: Determine if it would be helpful to continue to work with LRAs; determine LRA interest and bandwidth; work with LRA to finalize reports and material. <u>Completed.</u> • Legal Fellow: Interviews for Legal Fellow with potentially a Commissioner participating in the interview process. <u>On hold.</u> • Budgeting: Outreach to legislators. <u>Ongoing.</u>
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer staff: LRAs do not have bandwidth during fall semester. • Legal Fellow: Prepping for legislative session takes more time cutting into time for interviews. • Budgeting: Work group preparations could take priority.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer Staff: Early conversations with LRAs. Keep track of drafting schedules and feedback from work group members. • Legal Fellow: Schedule early; work with Commissioners. • Budgeting: Track and prioritize budget timelines.
Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer Staff: Opportunity to discuss fall plans in August; work with UO HR to make sure we follow UO process; communication with work group members and LRAs.

	• Legal Fellow: Potentially a Commissioner's time to participate in interviews. • Budgeting: Travel time to Salem; opportunity to meet with policy and ways and means legislators.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer staff: We have the necessary number of LRAs who can work the needed hours for the fall semester; reports are finalized by the middle of October. • Legal Fellow: We complete the interview process. • Budgeting: We've met with the necessary folks.

In November and December, we will:	• Summer Staff: Work with LRA to submit reports to Commission for consideration. • Legal Fellow: Onboarding and organization. • Budgeting: Finalize budget materials for 2027 session.
What could get in the way of us achieving this goal?	• Summer Staff: Work groups does not approve draft language and/or draft. Work group does not move forward with proposal. • Legal Fellow: We do not find a candidate interested in the position. • Budgeting: Revenue forecast is uncertain or volatile.
Things that we will do to plan for success:	• Summer Staff: Draft early to solicit feedback; build in time to update/modify • Legal Fellow: Ensure benefits, salary, are similar to similar positions; direct position outreach to folks interested in policy work • Budgeting: Respond to feedback; close communication with stakeholders

Resources that we need in order to achieve this goal and why they are important:	• Summer Staff: Time from LRAs to draft and finalize reports. • Legal Fellow: Adequate funding and onboarding time. • Budgeting: Updated information on the state budget; current information on the OLC budget from UO.
We will know we've met this goal if:	• Summer Staff: Reports are completed in time to be submitted to the Commission for November 20, 2026 meeting. • Legal Fellow: Legal Fellow onboarded before the end of December. • Budgeting: Materials ready for legislative session.