

Energy Efficiency Incentives (HB 3535)

Also called the Jobs and Prosperity bill, HB 3535 supported energy efficiency by requiring energy performance scores on buildings, spurring Oregon utilities to put energy-efficiency investments first, and offering a tax abatement for high performance buildings. *The bill died in House Committee.*

Clean Energy Financing

Funding for clean energy is offered through tax breaks, called a Business Energy Tax Credit or BETC, for investment in renewable energy. Under threat of severe cuts due to the state's current budget shortfall, *the BETC survived but with a reduced cap on state spending on the program.*

Health Insurance Exchange (SB 99)

New federal health care reform law requires that states establish a health insurance exchange – a marketplace for information and purchase of health insurance by individuals and small businesses. *The legislature passed SB 99*, the first step in forming the exchange, with strong bipartisan votes in both Chambers. However, VOIS and allied organizations spoke up for an even better exchange - one that ensured negotiation powers for the state and kept insurers from wielding too much power.

BPA Ban (SB 695)

SB 695 would have banned the toxic chemical bisphenol-A from baby bottles, sippy cups, and reusable water bottles sold in Oregon. It also would have set up a task force to explore the creation of an Oregon BPA-Free label, a la Oregon Tilth. *The bill passed the Senate, but died in House committee.*

Farm to Schools (HB 2800)

HB 2800 allocates revenue from economic development fund to schools in order to purchase Oregon agricultural products. While only \$200,000 was made available this session for a pilot project, *the bill passed* and the pilot can demonstrate the economic development potential of the “buy Oregon” principle.

State Earned Income Tax Credit (SB 349)

SB 394 would have supplemented the wages of working families by increasing EITC, thus decreasing tax burden for low-income families. *The bill died in Senate committee.*

Virtual State Bank (HB 2519)

HB 2519 would have created a Finance and Credit Authority to coordinate already existing economic development funds. Oregon small businesses could access these dollars via community banks and credit unions to grow and sustain their work. *This bill failed on a party-line vote in House committee.*

Tax Credit Transparency (HB 2825)

HB 2825 will require the state to post information online about tax credits for economic development projects, providing legislators and the public with a stronger tool to gauge the effectiveness of tax expenditures in accomplishing their stated purposes. *The bill passed with broad bipartisan support.*