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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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Benjamin W. Bowman

Oregon

Representative, HD-025 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

OR Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote Vote

1. **HB3792 Socialized Energy Assistance (Passed 38 to 13 on 6/24/2025).** Doubles the minimum amount collected from electric customers for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance.

Estimated cost per household: **-\$24.00/year.**

YES

✗

2. **HB3054 Rent Control (Passed 33 to 26 on 4/16/2025).** Caps rent increases for spaces in larger manufactured-home parks and marinas at a rate tied to inflation—generally no more than six-percent annual increases for many communities—and limits how much rent can jump when a home is sold.

YES

✗

3. **SB5516 Education Funding (Passed 44 to 6 on 6/16/2025).** Appropriates \$11.36 billion for K-12 public education through the Oregon Department of Education for the 2025-27 biennium.

Estimated cost per household: **-\$6,676.00/year.**

YES

✗

4. **HB2530 School-bus Cameras (Passed 44 to 7 on 4/17/2025).** Updates the state's school-bus stop-arm camera law to refine how cameras on school-bus stop arms are used to enforce traffic safety.

YES

✗

5. **HB2586 Special Treatment for Asylum Seekers (Passed 36 to 18 on 3/10/2025).** Allows asylum seekers who are students at Oregon's public universities or Oregon Health & Science University to pay in-state tuition rates instead of higher nonresident tuition.

YES

✗

6. **SB827 Green-energy Rebates (Passed 36 to 16 on 5/20/2025).** Expands the Oregon Solar and Storage Rebate Program.

YES

✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Socialized Energy Assistance

HB3792 doubles the minimum amount collected from electric customers for low-income electric bill payment and crisis assistance from \$20 million to \$40 million per year. The funds go into Oregon's energy-assistance program to help low-income residents pay their power bills.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed HB3792 on June 24, 2025 by a vote of 38 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill further empowers the state to redistribute wealth through utility bills. Such policies increase energy costs, embrace collectivism, and distort markets.

2. Rent Control

HB3054 caps rent increases for spaces in larger manufactured-home parks and marinas at a rate tied to inflation, and limits how much rent can jump when a home is sold. The bill also prohibits landlords from forcing aesthetic upgrades or inspections as a condition of sale for a manufactured home.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed HB3054 on April 16, 2025 by a vote of 33 to 26. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government-imposed rent control and limiting property improvements blatantly violate the Bill of Rights, particularly private-property rights protected under the Fifth Amendment. Rent and ownership should be determined by the free market and negotiated between tenant and landlord—not by lawmakers.

3. Education Funding

SB5516 appropriates \$11.36 billion for K-12 public education through the Oregon Department of Education for the 2025-27 biennium. The funding includes \$9.85 billion from the General Fund for the State School Fund, plus additional amounts from lottery revenues and other state funds.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed SB5516 on June 16, 2025 by a vote of 44 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because education is not the role of government—it is the responsibility of a child's parents. Schools can and should be privatized. If not dismantled, the government's monopoly on preK-12 education will continue to displace traditional private schools and homeschooling in favor of universal state-sponsored schooling.

4. School-bus Cameras

HB2530 allows school districts to install and use stop-arm cameras under specified conditions to help catch drivers who illegally pass stopped school buses, and adjusts related enforcement and revenue-sharing rules.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed HB2530 on April 17, 2025 by a vote of 44 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the nays because these cameras undermine due process by removing human interaction and presuming guilt before innocence—principles protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Additionally, they violate the Fourth Amendment, which protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.

5. Special Treatment for Asylum Seekers

HB2586 allows asylum seekers who are students at Oregon's public universities or Oregon Health & Science University to pay in-state tuition rates, provided they meet certain residency-related conditions and show intent to pursue lawful status.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed HB2586 on March 10, 2025 by a vote of 36 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the nays because taxpayer-funded education is not a legitimate function of government and should not be extended to those who entered the country illegally. Granting in-state tuition rates and access to public financial aid to asylum seekers undermines the rule of law, erodes the value of citizenship, and diverts scarce public resources away from citizens.

6. Green-energy Rebates

SB827 expands the Oregon Solar and Storage Rebate Program so that people can receive rebates not just for solar-electric systems, but also for energy-storage systems (e.g., batteries) when those storage systems are installed at the same time and paired with previously purchased and installed solar panels.

The Oregon State House of Representatives passed SB827 on May 20, 2025 by a vote of 36 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation further distorts the free market by using taxpayer dollars to subsidize and favor select energy technologies. By expanding rebates, the state deepens its role in picking winners and losers, increases government spending, and advances a globalist, Marxist climate-change agenda under the guise of "clean energy" as promoted by the United Nations' Agenda 2030. Such policies crowd out market-driven innovation, expand government control over energy choices, and burden taxpayers with the costs of politically favored industries.