



**PETER COURTNEY**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**OREGON SENATE**

**KAREN MINNIS**  
**SPEAKER**  
**OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HOUSE VOTES TO CREATE PUBLIC COMMISSION ON THE LEGISLATURE**  
*Citizen commission will examine Legislature; make recommendations to improve it*

SALEM – The House today approved legislation creating a Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature to review the Legislature's operations and make recommendations for improvements to the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly when it convenes in 2007. Senate Bill 1084 creates a 30-member commission to review all aspects of Oregon's legislative branch of government including the timing, frequency, and length of sessions, legislative procedures, and the adequacy of legislative facilities and staffing.

"It's been more than 30 years since the last Commission on the Legislature met and made recommendations that fundamentally improved Oregon's representative government," said House Speaker Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village) who co-sponsored the measure with Senate President Peter Courtney. "It's my hope this commission will help make the Legislature more responsive to the needs of Oregonians."

"The legislative branch was designed to be the most accessible and responsive branch of government, but it has been damaged over the years. This new commission will recommend ways to strengthen the legislative branch so it can more effectively meet the needs of the people," said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn).

The Commission plans to hold a number of public meetings across the state during the 2005-06 interim to review, evaluate, and begin developing recommendations for improving the operations of Oregon's legislative branch of government. The Commission will receive staff support from the Legislative Administration Committee and has been appropriated \$70,000 for staff and expenses.

State Rep. Jeff Kropf (R-Sublimity), who carried the bill on the House floor today said, "This is a great opportunity to improve the branch of government closest and most accessible to Oregonians. Previous commissions have helped make Oregon's Legislature better and I expect no less from this effort."

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The members of the Commission will be:

Dave Barrows, lobbyist  
State Rep. Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach)  
Daniel Bernstine, president, Portland State University  
Frank Brawner, retired lobbyist  
Bridget Burns, member Oregon State Board of Higher Education  
Jane Cease, former legislator who served on the 1974 Commission on the Legislature  
Carolyn Chambers, president, Chambers Communications Corporation  
David Frohnmayer, president, University of Oregon  
Mark Garber, publisher, Gresham *Outlook*  
Sen. Avel Gordly (D-Portland)  
Hasso Hering, editor, Albany *Democrat-Herald*  
Tim Hibbits, pollster  
Jim Hill, former state treasurer and legislator  
Barbara Karmel, management consultant  
Rep. Wayne Krieger (R-Gold beach)  
Ginny Lang, lobbyist and staff member of the 1974 Commission on the Legislature  
John Lattimer, former legislative fiscal officer  
Susan Leeson, retired justice of the Oregon Supreme Court  
Hans Linde, professor, Willamette University College of Law  
Greg Merten, former manager of Hewlett Packard, Inkjet Printer Division  
Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany/Corvallis)  
Delores Pigsley, chair of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Laura Pryor, Gilliam County judge  
Raul Ramirez, Marion County sheriff  
Gretchen Schuette, president, Chemeketa Community College  
Connie Seeley, chief of staff, Senate President Peter Courtney  
Kerry Tymchuk, state director, Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Oregon)  
Gary Wilhelms, former legislator and chief of staff, House Speaker Karen Minnis  
Carl Wilson, former legislator  
Junki Yoshida, president, Yoshida Foods International

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