



Friday Forum

4/23/2021

**Worker Definition
Bill Moves from
Business & Labor**

**Good Signs in
The Employment
Report**

**OHBA's Land
Division Bill
Passes Senate**

OHBA Week in Review

Worker Definition Bill Moves from Business & Labor

With the blessings of the Management-Labor Advisory Committee [HB 3188-2](#) moved from the House Business and Labor Committee this week with unanimous consent and a "Do Pass" recommendation.

[HB 3188-2](#) will define the definitions of employer and employee as it relates to worker compensation.

Vice Chair Rep. Daniel Bonham (R, The Dalles) told the committee that he has no problem supporting the bill after it was vetted by MLAC and praised the committee adding he had trust in their work. Chair Rep. Paul Holvey (D, Eugene) said this bill got down further into the weeds than most but he was happy to carry the bill on the House Floor.

BCD Budget Hearings

The Department of Business and Consumer Services wrapped up its budget hearings last week on [SB 5510](#), the department's budget bill. The Building Codes Division plays an important role in the construction industry through code development, advisory boards, inspections and other essential services. The construction industry strongly supports DCBS maintaining their current level of budget to keep skilled inspectors on staff and maintain current levels of service if the economy dips.

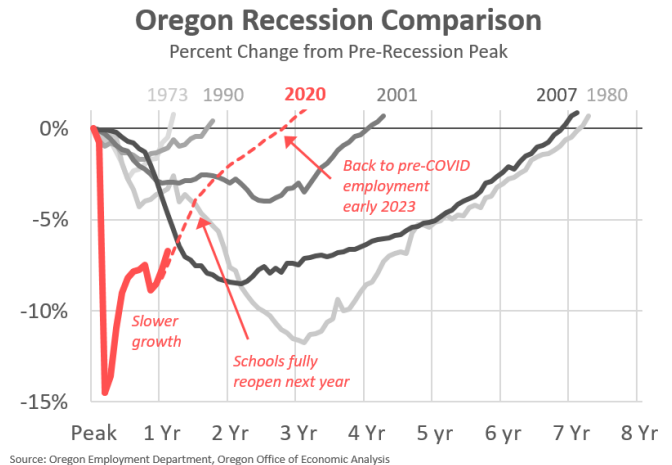
HB 2021 – Clean Energy

100% Clean Energy ([HB 2021](#)) moved out of committee this week with a referral to the House rules committee to address lingering questions about impacts on ratepayers. This will create more room for legislators' questions to be addressed regarding the discrepancies about the utilities reported rate increases.

Good Signs in the Employment Report

The March Jobs Report released last week shows

the early signs of recovery, but also a stark reminder of just how deep the recession was. A full recovery to pre-COVID employment levels isn't expected for two more years, and wages may lag behind the national average for some time.



A few highlights from the report:

- The unemployment rate is 6% and has decreased by 0.1% for three consecutive months
- More than 20,100 jobs were added in March
- Leisure and Hospitality showed the greatest growth with 13,900 new jobs
- Construction added 700 jobs, higher than normal seasonal patterns
- Overall, 54% of jobs lost to the recession have been recovered

The next statewide jobs report will be issued on May 18 with the Economic Forecast coming the following day on May 19.

OHBA's Land Division and ADU Bill passed the senate floor this week.

OHBA's Bill ([SB458](#)) expedites land division for parcels qualifying as middle housing. This Bill supports the work of [HB2001 \(2019\)](#). By expediting the process, [SB458](#) creates a market-driven approach as to when middle housing lots are divided for ownership or rental purposes. Also, SB 391 relating to ADUs, passed the senate floor.

OHBA's Annual Conference Date has Been Set – June 24th and 25th.

OHBA will meet live and in-person at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend. The conference will feature guest speakers, break-out sessions on land-use, building codes, OSHA and more. OHBA's annual board meeting and awards banquet will follow the conference. Save the date and visit oregonhba.com or reach out to Taylor or Jordan at 503-378-9066 for more information.

occurring this fall. Visit the OHBA website to sign-up for a future class.



Redistricting Compromise Gets House Moving

Two issues we've been tracking closely this session – the slow movement of legislation and the redistricting process – merged last week as party leadership agreed to a compromise that sets a new path in both areas.

House Republicans agreed to waive the full reading requirement on all bills in exchange for a co-chair seat and parity on the redistricting committee. This will dramatically speed up the pace of bills moving through the House and begin breaking the backlog of legislation that has piled up in recent weeks. It will also give Republicans a full voice in the legislative portion of the redistricting process, which sets the electoral maps in Oregon for the next decade.

This compromise comes the same week as the "chamber of origin" deadline, which is the death sentence for policy bills that haven't cleared their initial committee for a floor vote. Between the deadline and the less restrictive reading requirements, we have a far better picture of which bills are likely to become law by the end of session.

OHBA Code-Change Classes Scheduled Through June

The 2021 ORSC Building Code Changes went into effect on April 1, as we now enter the 6-month grace period before it becomes mandatory for all builders in Oregon. Builders will likely need to make several changes to their current operations to meet the new code. OHBA is currently offering classes led by Mike Goodrich, presenting an overview of the changes