

House Bill 3321

Sponsored by Representative HAYDEN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Removes requirement that Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association gather signatures in order to be eligible for individual income tax return checkoff contribution.

Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to listing the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association for donation by tax return
3 checkoff; creating new provisions; amending ORS 305.729; and prescribing an effective date.

4 Whereas the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association provides a necessary public safety ser-
5 vice in protecting the lives and personal and business property of Oregonians; and

6 Whereas Oregonians were impacted in 2020 by one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon's history;
7 and

8 Whereas the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association is woefully underfunded to continue to
9 provide public safety and fire protection efforts and needs additional resources to replenish and
10 maintain volunteer fire departments; and

11 Whereas Oregon will continue to have annual fire seasons that will require properly equipped
12 volunteer firefighters as part of a system of providing public safety, particularly in rural and
13 underserved communities; and

14 Whereas the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association was given statutory authority by the
15 Legislative Assembly in 2017 through the passage of Enrolled Senate Bill 378 to participate in the
16 Oregon charitable tax return checkoff program, but has not been successful in raising the funds
17 necessary to campaign to meet a requirement of gathering 10,000 signatures to participate; and

18 Whereas the inability to gather 10,000 signatures has resulted in being deprived of three tax
19 years of opportunity to receive funding for the organization; and

20 Whereas unlike other charitable organizations that participate in the Oregon charitable tax re-
21 turn checkoff program, the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association is an integral part of the
22 public safety infrastructure of our state, which protects all Oregonians; and

23 Whereas Enrolled Senate Bill 378 in the 2017 legislative session was sponsored by 87 bipartisan
24 lawmakers and passed with unanimous support; and

25 Whereas the Legislative Assembly seeks to thank our volunteer firefighters for their courage in
26 the 2020 fire season by allowing the public to make financial contributions to support the Oregon
27 Volunteer Firefighters Association's efforts to keep communities safe by removing the 10,000 signa-
28 ture requirement for the association to participate in the Oregon charitable tax return checkoff
29 program starting with the 2021 tax year; now, therefore,

30 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 1.** ORS 305.729 is amended to read:

2 305.729. Notwithstanding ORS 305.727[,]:

3 (1) An entity that qualified for instruction listing before the tax year beginning on January 1,
4 2007, is not required to collect signatures in order to qualify for instruction listing for any tax year
5 beginning on or after January 1, 2007.

6 (2) **The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association is not required to collect signatures**
7 **in order to qualify for instruction listing for any tax year beginning on or after January 1,**
8 **2021.**

9 **SECTION 2.** The amendments to ORS 305.729 by section 1 of this 2021 Act apply to tax
10 years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

11 **SECTION 3.** This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2021
12 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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