

A-Engrossed House Bill 2605

Ordered by the House April 4
Including House Amendments dated April 4

Sponsored by Representatives PHAM K, WALTERS, Senator GELSER BLOUIN, Representative BOWMAN; Representatives CHAICHI, DEXTER, EVANS, FAHEY, GAMBA, GRAYBER, KROPP, MARSH, NELSON, NOSSE, RUIZ, Senators CAMPOS, GOLDEN, JAMA (Presession filed.)

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.

[Creates tax credit for contributions to publisher of local journalistic publication.]

[Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2028.]

Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to issue *[one-time]* grants *[for purposes related to supporting Oregonians' local news and information needs]* to specified recipients. Directs recipients to convene work group to carry out specified duties related to local journalism.

Sunset January 2, 2026.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to local journalism.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall issue grants to**
5 **the recipients specified in this subsection. Prior to disbursing grant moneys, the department**
6 **shall execute a grant agreement with the recipients requiring the recipients to carry out the**
7 **duties set forth in this section. The department shall issue grants to:**

8 (a) **The University of Oregon for the Agora Journalism Center; and**

9 (b) **The Fund for Oregon Rural Journalism.**

10 (2) **The recipients shall convene a work group that, to the greatest extent possible, in-**
11 **cludes representation of all of the following:**

12 (a) **Organizations supporting local journalism or representing local journalistic publica-**
13 **tions in Oregon;**

14 (b) **Academic departments related to journalism;**

15 (c) **Nonprofit organizations performing work related to journalism;**

16 (d) **The philanthropic sector; and**

17 (e) **Civic organizations in Oregon.**

18 (3) **The work group shall:**

19 (a) **Define and identify the attributes of Oregon's local journalistic publications;**

20 (b) **Research local news and information ecosystems across this state, especially those**
21 **serving rural, underserved and other hard-to-reach communities, including multilingual,**
22 **non-English and ethnically specific media ecosystems; and**

23 (c) **Identify and amplify community-centered, solutions-oriented journalism within and**
24 **outside of this state and beyond to serve as models for other communities to replicate.**

25 (4) **On or before December 1, 2024, the work group shall prepare and make publicly**

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 available a report on its findings, which may include recommendations for legislation.

2 (5) The work group shall create a local journalism resource center to provide resources
3 to support local journalism, including:

4 (a) Connecting publishers with local or nationwide resources for assistance, training,
5 collaborations and philanthropic opportunities;

6 (b) Providing short-term grants for tools and technology to support sustainability and
7 growth of local journalism; and

8 (c) Placing journalists to provide local news in communities underserved by local
9 journalism.

10 (6) The work group shall develop and implement a program to issue subgrants to fund
11 initiatives to meet the local information needs of communities in Oregon. The work group
12 shall develop and publish application procedures and selection criteria for such subgrants.
13 The work group shall fund subgrants out of moneys granted under this section.

14 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

15 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
16 ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July
17 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,900,000 to issue grants under section 1 of
18 this 2023 Act in the following amounts:

19 (1) \$1,210,000 for the University of Oregon for the Agora Journalism Center; and

20 (2) \$1,690,000 for the Fund for Oregon Rural Journalism.
21
