Senate Bill 555
Legislative Research

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The Issue

In response to legislative research requests, LPRO utilizes unpublished data

Currently, LPRO does not have the ability to safeguard **unpublished,** personally identifiable information:

- shared with LPRO by others

- collected by LPRO

This inability to protect unpublished data

- limits LPRO's opportunities to collect or use certain types of data

- may limit the degree of professional trust LPRO has with respondents and partners

The Proposal

Senate Bill 555 (2025) to exempt unpublished, personally identifiable data from disclosure

- authorize statutory protection for research data collected or used by LPRO

- ensure data are used in the manner expected by the participant providing the information

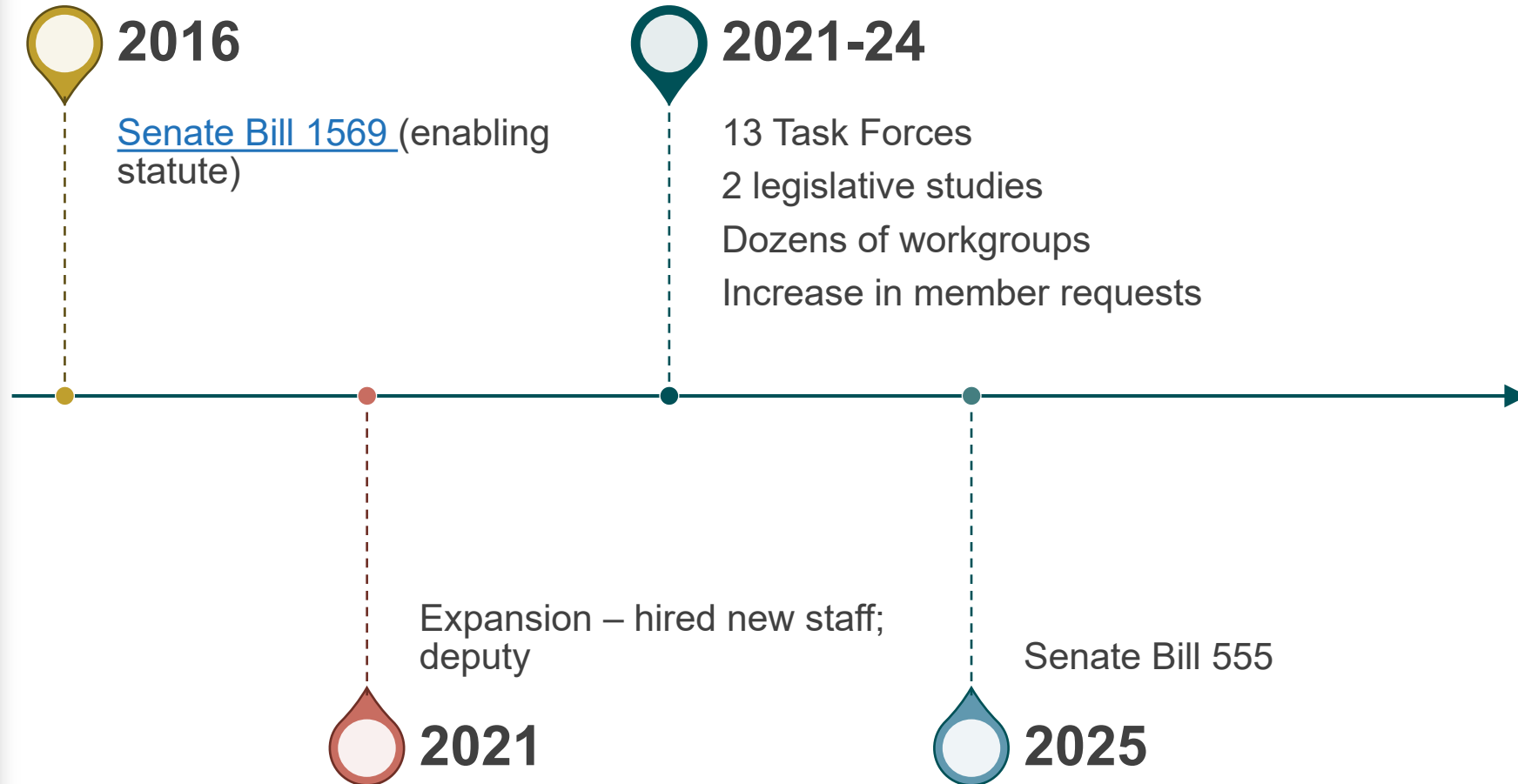Engage in a conversation about the future direction of LPRO research

LPRO Research Services

LPRO responds to legislators' requests for:

- Information gathering, literature reviews, and descriptive research

- Comparative analysis of state and federal policies, programs, or legislation

- Analysis of publicly and non-publicly available data (e.g., Census data)

- Surveys and interviews to offer new insights on policy issues

- Consultations on research proposals and legislative task forces

LPRO Research team:

- Increasingly specialized research office; five professionally trained researchers and a GIS and Data Visualization analyst; highly skilled legislative analysts

- Increasing volume of complex and wide array of requests from members

Types of Data Sources Used in Legislative Research

LPRO

LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

Data Sources Frequently Used

LPRO uses a wide variety of data in responding to legislative research

Quantitative Data Sources

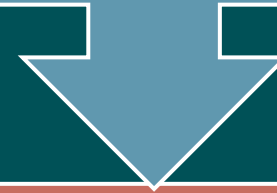| Surveys	Population/ Demographics	Administrative	GIS/mapping

Less Frequently Used Data Sources

Less often, LPRO uses qualitative data in responding to legislative research

Qualitative Data Sources

Interviews	Focus Groups	Expert Opinions

LPRO Research Services

Secondary Data

- Public use data sets (Census, labor/employment data, health data)

- Administrative data from agencies

- Restricted use data for complex legislative research studies

~90% of LPRO research utilizes publicly available data

Primary Data

- Survey research for task forces and workgroups

- In-depth interviews and focus groups for task forces and legislative study bills

<10% of LPRO research uses original data collection

LPRO Surveys (Primary Data) - Examples

Surveys

What: Oregon Legislative Firefighter Capacity Workgroup (2022)

Who: 285 chiefs and 650 volunteer firefighters

Why: Assess recruitment & retention efforts of volunteer firefighters in Oregon ([report](#))

What: Specialty Courts Task Force (2024)

Who: Oregon's 67 specialty courts (50 responses); Oregon court personnel (686 responses)

Why: Understand operating costs, funding sources, and barriers/challenges faced by specialty courts ([legislative report](#))

What: Artificial Intelligence Task Force (2024)

Who: 187 responses from 13 industries statewide

Why: Inform recommendations on AI-related legislation in Oregon for the 2025 session ([legislative report](#))

LPRO Stakeholder Interviews (Primary Data) - Examples

Interviews

What: **Legislatively Directed Study Bill** ([HB 4128](#), 2022)

Who: Interviewed personnel with ODA, ODFW, OHA, and OSP

Why: Identify policies to improve prevention and responses to zoonotic diseases ([report](#))

What: **Legislatively Directed Study Bill** ([HB 2010](#), 2023)

Who: Interviewed representatives from federal, state, and local agencies

Why: Assess approaches and funding for low-income water ratepayer assistance and household infrastructure ([report](#))

What: **Behavioral Health Accountability Task Force** (2025)

Who: 26 state and local behavioral health financing experts in Oregon

Why: Inventory the state's behavioral health finance system (report, summer 2025)
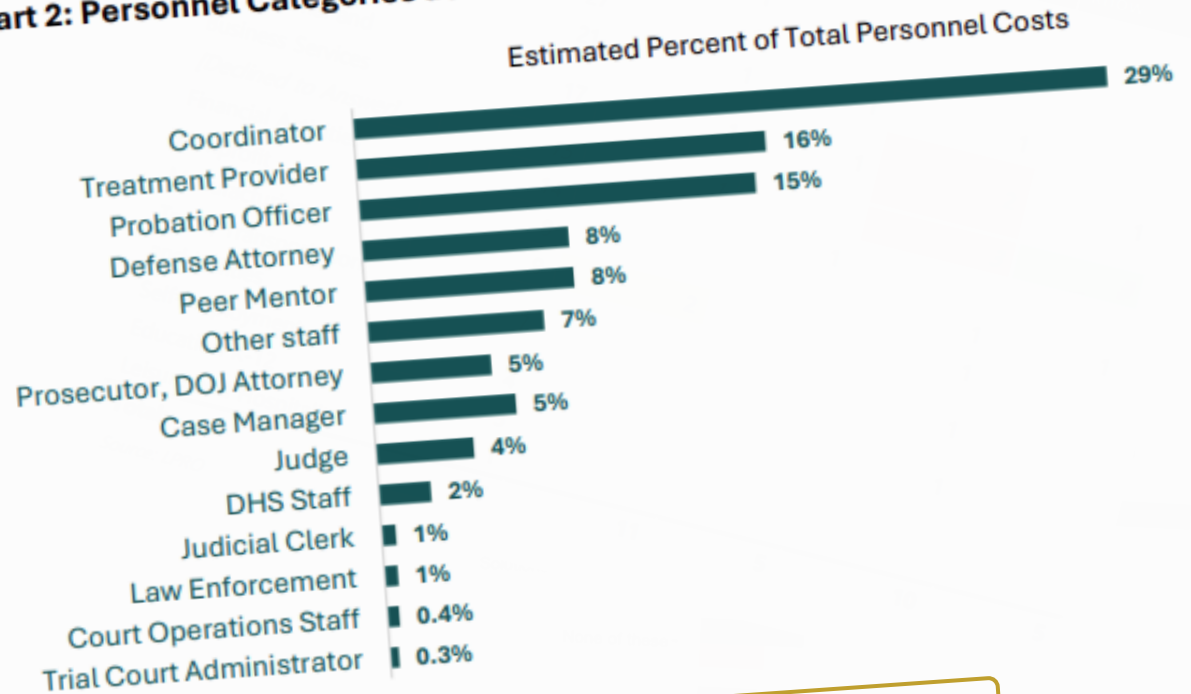
LPRO Research Examples

- Legislatively requested research

- Original data collection

- Publicly reported; identify and summarize data methods and sources

Joint Task Force on Artificial Intelligence | State of Oregon

Table 5: Response Trends by Sector/Industry

Sector or Industry	Respondent Count	All "Acceptable"	All
Government			
Information			
Higher Education	31		

Chart 2: Personnel Categories as a Share of Estimated Total Personnel Costs

Estimated Percent of Total Personnel Costs

Coordinator	29%
Treatment Provider	16%
Probation Officer	15%
Defense Attorney	8%
Peer Mentor	8%
Other staff	7%
Prosecutor, DOJ Attorney	5%
Case Manager	5%
Judge	4%
DHS Staff	2%
Judicial Clerk	1%
Law Enforcement	1%
Court Operations Staff	0.4%
Trial Court Administrator	0.3%

Source: LPRO Personnel Questionnaire, September 2024
Note: Personnel costs do not include fringe benefits or other compensation beyond salary.

Percent (%) of respondents by group

Volunteer Firefighter n = 526   Chief n = 202

Source: Legislative Policy and Research Office
Data: Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Survey

Professional Standards & Principles Conducting Research

LPRO

Professional Research Standards & Principles

Professional standards maintain public trust in the research process.

Researchers are typically guided by a combination of ethical guidelines and legal/regulatory standards

- research protocols, informed consent

- federal and state data protection laws

Crucial components to maintaining trust, integrity, and ethical standards are

- informed consent

- confidentiality

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What — adhere to professional research standards as a nonpartisan research office by asking to protect against disclosure of participants' identifiable information.

Why — avoid unauthorized access to information shared with LPRO containing personal information

Who — protect individuals/informants while still conducting legislatively directed research

Research — must be conducted responsibly to maintain trust with data providers.

Trust — LPRO is a responsible data partner with external partners, including the public.

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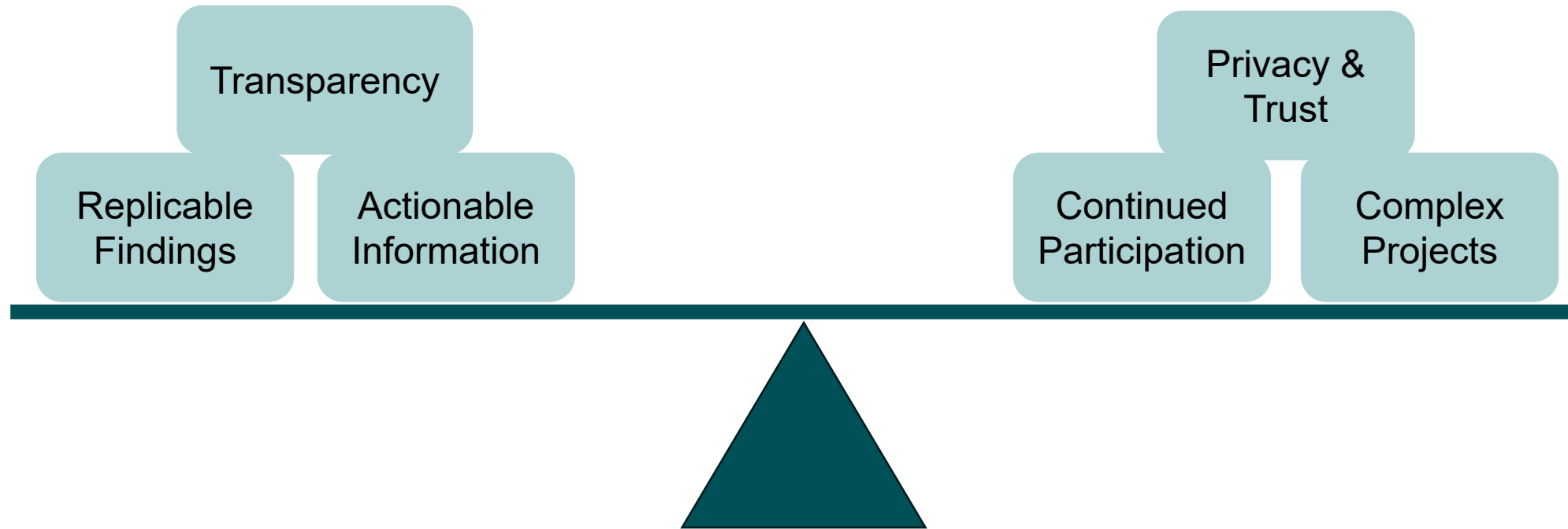| Current Practice	Proposed Change
- Abide by professional standards in research - Inform participants or agencies how information shared with LPRO may be shared - Transparency: report sources of data and release anonymized, de-identified aggregated data - Default is LPRO identifies data sources in all publications	**Informed consent and disclosure –** give individuals the choice to disclose their information publicly or not **Confidentiality –** information shared with LPRO that contains personally identifiable information will remain confidential (e.g., names, contact info)

Finding an Optimal Balance

Thank you!

Learn more about LPRO's research and publications on our website

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