

SB 121 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Action Date: 04/14/25

Action: Do pass and refer to Tax Expenditures by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - McLane, Meek, Patterson, Starr, Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/17, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Extends sunset of Oregon's earned income tax credit by six years, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2032.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background and discussion of Oregon's earned income tax credit
- Administrative costs and enforcement of credit at federal and state level
- Other means tested income supplementing programs
- EITC proposals being discussed in House Revenue Committee
- Quarterly tax payments of credit, affect on qualification for other means tested income transfer programs.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Taxpayers allowed to claim the federal earned income tax credit (EITC) are allowed an Oregon EITC equal to either 9% or 12% of the federal credit amount allowed for the corresponding tax year. To claim the 12% credit, an Oregon taxpayer must have a dependent under the age of three at the close of the tax year. The Oregon EITC is a refundable credit, meaning the credit is first used to reduce a taxpayer's tax liability potentially to zero with any remaining credit amount being paid to the taxpayer in the form of a tax refund. As Oregon's credit is a percentage of the federal credit, Oregon's credit inherently reflects the design of the federal EITC as of a specific date.

The EITC is a refundable tax credit available to eligible individuals of comparatively low earnings. The EITC amount is calculated on formulas that consider earned income, number of qualifying children, marital status and adjusted gross income (AGI). The EITC initially equals a fixed percentage (credit rate) of earned income until the credit reaches its maximum amount. The EITC then remains at its maximum amount (commonly referred to as the plateau) for a specified range of earned income. Following the plateau, the credit then decreases in value to zero at a fixed rate (phase-out rate) for each additional dollar of income above the phase-out threshold. Additional background and analysis of Oregon's EITC can be found in LRO's [2025 Tax Credit Report](#).