

# Senate Bill 616

Sponsored by Senator BONHAM (Pre-session 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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act stops a city from limiting home building for tree preservation. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.7).

Prohibits a local government from conditioning the development or use of property for needed housing based on the retention of trees. Provides exceptions.

Sunset January 1, 2036.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to preservation of trees for housing development.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 197A.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "heritage tree" means a tree that is designated**  
6 **by a local government through an ordinance or resolution that recognizes the tree's unique**  
7 **location, size, age, botanical interest or historic or cultural significance.**

8 **(2) Except for a heritage tree or a tree in a riparian corridor, a local government may**  
9 **not condition the development or use of property for needed housing on:**

10 **(a) The retention of a tree; or**

11 **(b) The payment of a fee in lieu of retaining a tree.**

12 **SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 1, 2036.**

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**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.