

## SENATE MINORITY REPORT AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 686

By Nonconcurring Members of COMMITTEE ON RULES

June 6

On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 4 through 24 and delete pages 2 through 12 and insert:

**“SECTION 1. (1) The Interim Committee on Civic Information is established.**

**“(2) The committee consists of five members appointed as follows:**

**“(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among the members of the Senate from the majority party.**

**“(b) The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among the members of the Senate from the minority party.**

**“(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives from the majority party.**

**“(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from among the members of the House of Representatives from the minority party.**

**“(3) The interim committee shall:**

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

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

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

**“(d) Study Senate Bill 686 (2025), as amended by the typed amendments dated April 22, 2025, and adopted by the Senate Committee on Rules on May 5, 2025 (SB 686-3), with regard to any constitutionality issues under the United States and Oregon Constitutions and copyright issues.**

**“(4) In carrying out subsection (3) of this section, the interim committee shall engage and seek input to the greatest possible from the following:**

**“(a) Organizations supporting local journalism or representing local journalistic publications in Oregon, including publications that are headquartered in Oregon;**

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

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

**“(d) The philanthropic sector;**

**“(e) Online platforms; and**

**“(f) Civic organizations in Oregon.**

**“(5) A majority of the members of the interim committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.**

**“(6) Official action by the interim committee requires the approval of a majority of the**

1 members of the interim committee.

2 “(7) The interim committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

3 “(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
4 ment to become immediately effective.

5 “(9) The interim committee shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the  
6 chairperson or of a majority of the members of the interim committee.

7 “(10) The interim committee may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the interim  
8 committee.

9 “(11) The interim committee shall report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may  
10 include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative As-  
11 sembly related to rules and labor and business no later than December 1, 2026.

12 “(12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director may employ persons necessary for the  
13 performance of the functions of the interim committee. The Legislative Policy and Research  
14 Director shall fix the duties and amounts of compensation of the employees. The interim  
15 committee shall use the services of continuing legislative staff, without employing additional  
16 persons, to the greatest extent practicable.

17 “(13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
18 the interim committee in the performance of the duties of the interim committee and, to the  
19 extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the  
20 members of the interim committee consider necessary to perform their duties.

21 “SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on December 31, 2027.

22 “SECTION 3. Section 4 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 315.

23 “SECTION 4. (1) As used in this section, ‘media news outlet’ means an online, print or  
24 other media outlet that:

25 “(a) Has been in existence as a registered business for at least 12 months in the state in  
26 which it is registered as a business; and

27 “(b) Regularly employs staff journalists who produce news coverage on any topic of news  
28 within Oregon.

29 “(2) A credit in an amount not to exceed \$100, if reported on a joint return, or \$50, if  
30 reported on any other type of return, shall be allowed against the taxes that are otherwise  
31 due under ORS chapter 316 for the amount that the taxpayer paid or incurred during the tax  
32 year for:

33 “(a) The cost of subscriptions to media news outlets; and

34 “(b) Donations to an organization that is recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3)  
35 of the Internal Revenue Code and that supports professional journalists, news media profes-  
36 sionals, government transparency and public records reform.

37 “(3) A taxpayer claiming a credit under this section shall add to federal taxable income  
38 for Oregon tax purposes any amount that is deducted for federal tax purposes and that also  
39 serves as the basis for the credit allowed under this section.

40 “(4)(a) A nonresident shall be allowed the credit under this section in the proportion  
41 provided in ORS 316.117.

42 “(b) If a change in the status of a taxpayer from resident to nonresident or from non-  
43 resident to resident occurs, the credit allowed under this section shall be determined in a  
44 manner consistent with ORS 316.117.

45 “(c) If a change in the tax year of a taxpayer occurs as described in ORS 314.085, or if

1 the Department of Revenue terminates the taxpayer's tax year under ORS 314.440, the credit  
2 allowed under this section shall be prorated or computed in a manner consistent with ORS  
3 314.085.

4 “(5) The credit allowed in any one tax year may not exceed the tax liability of the tax-  
5 payer.

6 “SECTION 5. (1) A person that is not a media news outlet as defined in section 4 of this  
7 2025 Act may not advertise that a payment to the person is eligible for the tax credit de-  
8 scribed in section 4 of this 2025 Act.

9 “(2) The Department of Revenue may impose a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each vio-  
10 lation of this section.

11 “SECTION 6. Section 4 of this 2025 Act applies to tax years beginning on or after January  
12 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2031.”.

13 /s/ Daniel Bonham  
14 Senator

15 /s/ Kim Thatcher  
16 Senator

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18