

SB 686-MR7  
(LC 1981)  
5/6/25 (CPA/ps)

Requested by Senator BONHAM

**PROPOSED MINORITY REPORT AMENDMENTS TO  
SENATE BILL 686**

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **“(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from**  
14 **among the members of the House of Representatives from the minor-**  
15 **ity party.**

16 **“(3) The interim committee shall:**

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

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

1 specific media ecosystems;

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

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

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

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

16 “(b) Academic departments related to journalism;

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

18 “(d) The philanthropic sector;

19 “(e) Online platforms; and

20 “(f) Civic organizations in Oregon.

21 “(5) A majority of the members of the interim committee consti-  
22 tutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

23 “(6) Official action by the interim committee requires the approval  
24 of a majority of the members of the interim committee.

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

27 “(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority  
28 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

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

1 interim committee.

2 “(10) The interim committee may adopt rules necessary for the op-  
3 eration of the interim committee.

4 “(11) The interim committee shall report in the manner provided in  
5 ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the  
6 interim committees related to rules and labor and business no later  
7 than December 1, 2026.

8 “(12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director may employ  
9 persons necessary for the performance of the functions of the interim  
10 committee. The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall fix the  
11 duties and amounts of compensation of the employees. The interim  
12 committee shall use the services of continuing legislative staff, with-  
13 out employing additional persons, to the greatest extent practicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 “(2) A credit in an amount not to exceed \$100, if reported on a joint

1 return, or \$50, if reported on any other type of return, shall be allowed  
2 against the taxes that are otherwise due under ORS chapter 316 for the  
3 amount that the taxpayer paid or incurred during the tax year for:

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

5 “(b) Donations to an organization that is recognized as exempt un-  
6 der section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that supports  
7 professional journalists, news media professionals, government trans-  
8 parency and public records reform.

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

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

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

19 “(c) If a change in the tax year of a taxpayer occurs as described  
20 in ORS 314.085, or if the Department of Revenue terminates the  
21 taxpayer’s tax year under ORS 314.440, the credit allowed under this  
22 section shall be prorated or computed in a manner consistent with  
23 ORS 314.085.

24 “(5) The credit allowed in any one tax year may not exceed the tax  
25 liability of the taxpayer.

26 **“SECTION 5. (1) A person that is not a media news outlet as defined**  
27 **in section 4 of this 2025 Act may not advertise that a payment to the**  
28 **person is eligible for the tax credit described in section 4 of this 2025**  
29 **Act.**

30 “(2) The Department of Revenue may impose a civil penalty of up

1 to \$500 for each violation of this section.

2 **“SECTION 6. Section 4 of this 2025 Act applies to tax years begin-**  
3 **ning on or after January 1, 2025, and before January 1, 2031.”.**

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