



Support HB 3239

Fund Oregon Background Check Modernization

The Problem: Tens of thousands of caregivers in long term care, intellectual and developmental disability group homes, behavioral health, and counseling work are required to use Oregon’s background check system. But extremely long wait times for background checks to be returned (on average between one to two months) often means workers choose other employment opportunities and Oregonians must wait longer to get the healthcare and services they need.

The Solution: The effort to modernize and improve Oregon’s background check system has been underway for a decade. In 2015, the Legislature passed HB 2228, which enhanced the criminal background check process for workers and paved the way for the implementation of Rap Back, a service managed by the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services Division. Rap Back is the key to resolving delays and improving the efficiency and safety of Oregon’s background check system. Rap Back is fingerprint-based and helps prevent the risk of continued employment of individuals with disqualifying convictions. It also eliminates the need for “re-checks” by the state’s Background Check Unit (BCU), making the system work more quickly and efficiently for workers and employers. Any state agency may choose to opt-in to Rap Back.

In 2024, the Legislature got one step closer to full implementation of Rap Back through the passage of HB 4122, which put all the necessary policy and legal requirements in place to allow Oregon to subscribe to this federal program.

Funding is Required in 2025-27 for Full Implementation of Rap Back (HB 3239)

For Oregon to enroll in Rap Back, it must be funded. The funding pays for the cost of fingerprinting subject individuals and administration of the program for BCU and the Oregon State Police. HB 3239, with the forthcoming amendment and final fiscal information from the State, provides for that necessary funding this biennium and will vastly improve Oregon’s quest to modernize its background check system.

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