

Enrolled House Bill 4020

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules for Representative Ben Bowman)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to permits; and prescribing an effective date.

Whereas state permitting processes are often complex and involve multiple steps, documentation requirements and agency reviews; and

Whereas the absence of defined timelines and performance expectations can create uncertainty for applicants attempting to plan construction, hiring, financing or other time-sensitive activities; and

Whereas without consistent performance measures related to permit timeliness, agencies and policymakers lack the information necessary to identify bottlenecks, evaluate delays and consider process improvements; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2026 Act are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 183.

SECTION 2. (1) This section applies to the following agencies:

- (a) The Department of Environmental Quality.**
- (b) The Department of State Lands.**
- (c) The State Department of Energy.**
- (d) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

(2) When an agency listed in subsection (1) of this section denies an application for a permit, as defined in ORS 183.700, the agency shall specify the statutory or regulatory authority justifying the denial and provide the applicant a guide on how to contest the denial and the applicable time limitations for contesting the denial.

SECTION 3. (1) This section applies to the following agencies:

- (a) The Department of Environmental Quality.**
- (b) The Department of State Lands.**
- (c) The State Department of Energy.**
- (d) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.**

(2) No later than July 1, 2029, an agency listed in subsection (1) of this section shall develop or identify a performance measure as provided in ORS 291.110 that measures the timeliness of processing and issuance of permits and renewals of permits. The performance measure must be accompanied by a description of what slows processing and issuance or renewal of permits and what steps in the processing of permits take the most time. The performance measure may be accompanied by suggestions for statutory and other changes that could accelerate the timelines.

(3) On or after July 1, 2039, an agency may reevaluate the usefulness of the performance measure required by subsection (2) of this section and may discontinue using the performance measure.

SECTION 4. Section 3 of this 2026 Act is repealed on January 2, 2040.

SECTION 5. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by House March 3, 2026

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate March 5, 2026

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2026

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2026

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2026

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State