

Enrolled
House Bill 4135

Sponsored by Representatives HARTMAN, SCHARF, LEVY B, BOWMAN, LEVY E, NELSON, PHAM H, Senators GELSER BLOUIN, REYNOLDS; Representatives ANDERSEN, BOICE, BUNCH, CHAICHI, CHOTZEN, DOBSON, FRAGALA, GAMBA, GRAYBER, HELM, MARSH, RIEKE SMITH, WALTERS, WISE, Senators BROADMAN, FREDERICK, GIROD, JAMA, MANNING JR, MEEK, NERON MISSLIN, PATTERSON, PHAM K, PROZANSKI, SOLLMAN (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to HPV Awareness Day; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection and a leading cause of several preventable cancers, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal and penile cancers; and

Whereas cervical cancer remains a significant public health concern and HPV vaccination can prevent over 90 percent of cancers caused by HPV, and early detection through routine cervical cancer screening is proven to reduce HPV-related cancer risk dramatically; and

Whereas HPV is believed to be responsible for more than 90 percent of anal and cervical cancers, approximately 70 percent of vaginal and vulvar cancers and 60 percent of penile cancer; and

Whereas many people who become infected with HPV are asymptomatic and do not know they have it; and

Whereas Oregon's HPV vaccination completion rate for adolescents, at approximately 67.6 percent, falls below national public health goals and is lower than in many other states; and

Whereas gaps in public awareness about the timing and importance of HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening contribute to preventable cancers, delayed diagnoses and long-term health burdens for Oregon families; and

Whereas only 53.1 percent of Oregon women ages 25 to 44 have reported cervical cancer screenings that adequately met the recommended guidelines; and

Whereas clinicians recommend HPV vaccination for adolescents beginning as early as age nine and routine cervical cancer screenings beginning at age 21; and

Whereas many Oregonians remain unaware of when vaccinations or screenings are recommended, and increasing public understanding of these guidelines is essential to improving early detection and prevention; and

Whereas access to HPV vaccinations and cervical cancer screenings is uneven across Oregon, with substantial disparities affecting rural communities, low-income families and communities of color; and

Whereas culturally responsive, community-based outreach efforts are especially effective in reducing stigma related to HPV and improving vaccination and screening rates; and

Whereas improving awareness of HPV-related cancer prevention supports Oregon's broader goals around health equity and disease prevention; and

Whereas an annual day of awareness around HPV would reinforce the Oregon Health Authority's existing prevention efforts and complement the voluntary work already undertaken by

county health departments, school-based health centers, community clinics and youth-serving organizations; and

Whereas establishing an annual day of awareness provides a low-cost, high-impact opportunity to elevate public education around HPV prevention, cervical cancer screenings and vaccine availability; and

Whereas increasing public awareness of HPV and routine screenings will support statewide goals for reducing cancer disparities and increasing early detection; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly encourages the Oregon Health Authority, as resources allow, to recognize HPV Awareness Day each year through voluntary public education and outreach activities; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly further encourages local public health authorities, community clinics, county health departments, school-based health centers, educators and youth-serving organizations to participate in HPV Awareness Day by sharing medically accurate, age-appropriate and culturally responsive information on HPV prevention and cervical cancer screening; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. March 4th of each year is designated as HPV Awareness Day.

SECTION 2. This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House February 27, 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 4, 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