

A Proven Option for Families in Debt.

Support the Oregon Consumer Debt Relief Bill.

Oregonians facing job loss, medical bills, high interest debt, and other rising costs have few options beyond bankruptcy to address their unsecured debt. This bill would change that by authorizing and responsibly regulating debt relief providers, expanding access to a proven tool already used in most states. The industry saves consumers \$2 billion annually.¹

The bill codifies Obama-era Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules and goes further by requiring licensed providers, signed service agreements, and the use of consumer-controlled, FDIC-insured accounts. Families can cancel at any time without penalty and owe fees only for services already delivered. Families are never charged a fee unless they approve of the settlement.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES: DEBT RELIEF 101

This bill allows debt relief companies to operate in Oregon, negotiating with creditors to reduce what consumers owe. This can help Oregonians avoid bankruptcy and regain financial stability. According to a 2023 study, debt relief companies reduced balances by nearly 32% on average after fees, with the savings beginning 4 to 6 months after enrolling in a program.

\$2B

The debt relief industry saves consumers \$2 billion annually¹

32%

Debt relief companies reduced balances by nearly 32% on average after fees

Robust Consumer Protections:

From the FTC to Oregon's Department of Consumer & Business Services



No Upfront Fees: Providers may only charge consumers after a settlement is reached, the consumer approves it, and a payment is made.
No results, no fees.



Consumers Control The Money: Funds must be held in consumer-controlled, FDIC-insured accounts. Consumers can cancel anytime without penalty.



Transparency: Requires clear written service agreements and full disclosure of fees, timelines, and provider role.



Licensing & Enforcement: Providers must be licensed with oversight by DCBS. Fines and disciplinary actions are established for violations. The policies complement federal rules, which apply uniformly across all states and are enforced by the FTC. In addition, the federal and state consumer protection agencies and state attorneys general provide oversight and enforcement on the industry.



Fraud Prevention: Prohibits misleading advertising and unauthorized settlements.

WHY THIS MATTERS TODAY

In the last three years, Oregon credit card debt has jumped 25% - showing how credit cards and unsecured loans are more frequently being used for necessities like groceries, gas, childcare and medical bills. Today, Oregon settles far fewer unsecured debts than other states because this option is largely unavailable. **This bill gives families another safe, regulated path to reduce debt, avoid bankruptcy, and regain financial stability when they need it most.**

- ✓ Expands consumer options in the face of today's affordability crisis
- ✓ Helps families avoid bankruptcy
- ✓ Prevents scams and abuse
- ✓ Builds on strict federal guardrails already in place

Learn More at www.ACDR.org

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Association for
Consumer
Debt Relief

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