

Governor signs transgender equity bill into law

By KRISTENA HANSEN
Associated Press



AP Photo/Kristena Hansen

Gov. Kate Brown, seated, signs House Bill 2673 in Salem, Wednesday, making the process more private for transgender individuals to change their birth certificate records. The new law makes Oregon the second state with an alternative option for transgender people to update their birth records.

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown has signed a bill that will make it easier for transgender people in Oregon to shield any updates they make to their birth certificates, a process typically conducted through the court system without privacy from public view.

The measure, which takes effect next year, makes Oregon the second state after California to adopt laws specifically designed to help mitigate potential discrimination against transgender individuals from employers, landlords or anyone else who is otherwise able to dig up birth-record changes through public record.

The new law eliminates the requirement that changes to someone's name or gender identity must be posted

publicly by the courts. It also allows court cases involving gender identity changes on birth records to be sealed.

It's a minor tweak to state law that could have a big impact on the local

transgender community, says 59-year-old Stacy Rice, executive co-director of Q Center, a Portland community support center for LGBTQ individuals.

Rice is a transgender

woman but still hasn't been able to change her North Carolina birth records after 17 years because she hasn't undergone a sex-change operation, which the state says must also be confirmed through a notarized letter from their doctor. The same requirements apply for driver's licenses, although Rice got it done anyway thanks to the kindness of a North Carolina DMV employee years ago.

"I was going to have a driver's license that has my female face on it, my female name, but it's still going to say 'M' and let's say I get pulled over for some reason and maybe a police officer looks at it and says 'what's going on here?' that was terrifying," Rice said.

HB 2673 passed the Democratic-controlled Oregon Legislature earlier this month with some Republican support at a time when, two

years after the U.S. Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage, the nation remains largely divided as to how to balance LGBTQ rights and religious freedoms.

This year about 30 states introduced roughly 130 anti-LGBTQ bills, about half last year's figure, according to the D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign. Most of the measures have died, but legislatures in South Dakota, Alabama and Texas passed bills providing protections for faith-based adoption agencies that do not want to place children with gay or lesbian adoptive parents.

Opposite scenarios are playing out in other states like Nevada, where GOP Gov. Brian Sandoval signed a law earlier this month banning "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ youth. And this week, Republican Congressman Scott Taylor of Virginia

agreed to co-sponsor the federal Equality Act, which would give that community civil rights protections.

Oregon wasn't always a welcoming place for gay rights. Voters approved a measure banning same-sex measure in 2004. It was overturned a decade later.

For Oregon, Brown said in emotional remarks that the transgender equity bill carries broader significance in the aftermath of last week's deadly stabbings of two men trying to defend two teenage girls from racial and religious slurs on a Portland light-rail train.

"Hate and discrimination have no place in our Oregon," Brown said.

Brown, herself a bisexual, became the nation's first openly-LGBTQ elected governor last November and Democrat Tina Kotek is the first openly lesbian House Speaker.

State will yield management of Elliott to a private company

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Although the governor and environmental groups like to say that the state land board has decided to keep the Elliott State Forest "in public hands," come July, the 82,500-acre tract near the Southern Oregon coast will be managed by a private company.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has managed the Elliott for decades, but the Department of State Lands is now finalizing a contract with Titan-Kelly, LLC, for custodial management of the Elliott State Forest. The agreement would be for one year, effective July 1, with an option to renew up to five years.

While the dotted line has not yet been signed, the agreement is expected to cost the state \$780,000 per year.

Titan-Kelly, LLC is based in Pleasant Valley, according to an online directory compiled by Associated Oregon Loggers, a statewide trade association. The company will maintain roads, do some reforestation,

oversee public access and other basic, "custodial" tasks, but will not harvest timber on the land, according to a spokeswoman for the Department of State Lands.

The Department of State Lands oversees state trust lands, including rangelands and forests such as the Elliott. State trust lands are constitutionally required to generate revenue for the Common School Fund, which is essentially an endowment for public K-12 education.

For years, the Elliott generated revenues for the Common School Fund via timber harvests.

It was not immediately apparent late Wednesday how, under an agreement with a private company that will not be harvesting timber or performing other revenue-generating activity on the forest, the arrangement with Titan-Kelly would meet the requirement that the land generate money for the Common School Fund.

It has always cost money to manage the Elliott, said Julie Curtis, a spokeswoman for the Department of State Lands.

Amended tenant protections bill heads to Senate floor

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A Senate committee has stripped a tenant protections bill of a key provision that would have allowed cities to impose limits on rent increases.

The Senate Committee on Human Services voted 4-to-1 Wednesday to make changes to House Bill 2004 A. The most significant change denied cities the authority to impose rent control. Instead, senators added a limit on the frequency, but not the amount, of rent increases allowed per year. Landlords would be restricted to raising the rent once per year, but they could hike the price of rent by an unlimited amount.

"I just cannot express enough how important this is for constituents in my district. They are being displaced," said Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, D-Gresham. "We as Oregonians need to make sure there is housing for everyone, and I think this is a good step forward."

The bill, passed by the House of Representatives in April, now heads to the Senate floor for a vote. The Senate changes also would need House approval.

The bill still outlaws no-cause evictions and requires landlords with more than five units to pay a month's rent to a tenant when the tenant is forced to move out because the landlord is changing the property's use, renovating, demolishing or moving in.

Other Senate changes would extend the grace period for a landlord to end a month-to-month tenancy without cause from six months to nine months. Landlords also could force a tenant out at the end of a lease without paying relocation costs, provided that the landlord gives the tenant 90 days' notice of the landlord's intent not to renew the lease.

Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, said he was disappointed that many of the protections have been whittled away from the bill, but he acknowledged some protections are better than none.

Lawmakers aim to increase protections of immigrants

Associated Press

SALEM — Public bodies in Oregon would be prohibited from disclosing a person's immigration status and details like addresses, except when required by law, under a bill filed Wednesday in the Legislature.

Teresa Alonso Leon, a Democrat from Woodburn, and Diego Hernandez, a Democrat from Portland filed the bill in the House as immigration enforcement increases under President Donald Trump. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have even gone into the Multnomah County Courthouse in Portland to detain people when they showed up for scheduled court appearances.

Under the bill, introduced on behalf of Gov. Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, the date, time or location of a person's hearings or appointments that are not already public record cannot be disclosed by the public body. The bill said

that, "except as required by state or federal law," a public body may not disclose for the purpose of immigration enforcement, a person's address, workplace or work schedule, school and contact information.

A public body would also be prohibited from inquiring about a person's citizenship or immigration status except when determining benefit eligibility or as required by state or federal law.

Oregon state law and federal laws, however, clash when it comes to immigration.

A Republican lawmaker who advocates enforcement of America's immigration laws said the state should comply with federal law.

"If you read federal law, it says not only is it illegal to be in the country without authorization and if you're caught you have to go back, but it is also illegal to harbor someone," Rep. Sal Esquivel, from the southwestern Oregon town of Medford, said in a phone interview.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Variable cloudiness	Partly sunny and pleasant	Sunny to partly cloudy and nice	Not as warm with a shower	An a.m. t-storm; mostly cloudy
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
71°	52°	75°	50°	81°
52°	75°	50°	81°	55°
70°	45°	71°	47°	
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
78°	55°	81°	49°	87°
55°	81°	49°	87°	57°
73°	48°	78°	49°	

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	67°	50°
Normals	74°	50°
Records	100° (1986)	34° (1916)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"
Month to date	0.94"
Normal month to date	1.40"
Year to date	9.15"
Last year to date	5.54"
Normal year to date	6.51"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	72°	52°
Normals	76°	51°
Records	100° (1986)	35° (1928)

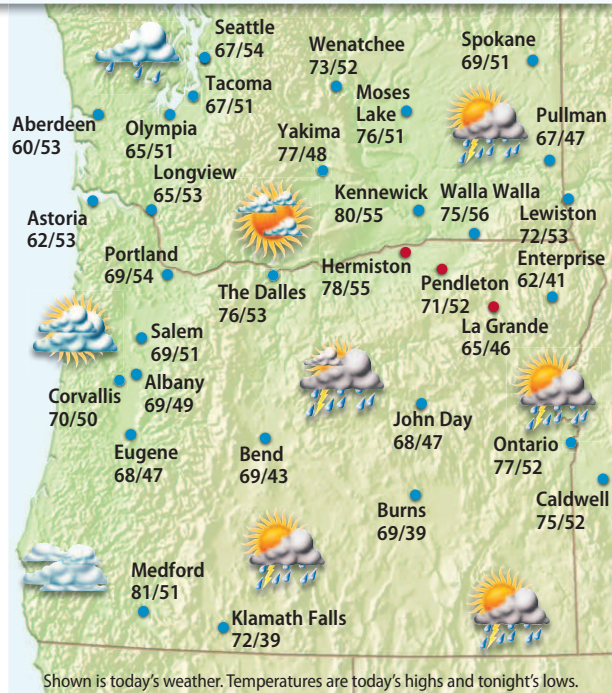
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	0.43"
Normal month to date	1.12"
Year to date	6.31"
Last year to date	4.23"
Normal year to date	5.11"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:37 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:52 p.m.
Moonset today	1:37 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
	June 1	June 9	June 17	June 23



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: A shower across the north today; cloudy in central parts. Partly sunny in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Showers around in central parts today; a thunderstorm in spots and mostly cloudy across the north elsewhere.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with a couple of showers.

Eastern Washington: Clouds and sun today; a thunderstorm in spots in the north, near the Idaho border and in the mountains.

Cascades: A couple of showers today, except a shower or thunderstorm in spots in central parts.

Northern California: Partial sunshine today; warmer. Patchy clouds tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	62	53	c	63	49	c
Baker City	66	39	pc	75	40	pc
Bend	69	43	pc	74	45	pc
Brookings	58	49	pc	61	49	pc
Burns	69	39	pc	76	44	pc
Enterprise	62	41	pc	70	41	pc
Eugene	68	47	pc	74	48	c
Heppner	70	47	c	74	46	pc
Hermiston	78	55	c	81	49	pc
John Day	68	47	sh	75	52	pc
Klamath Falls	72	39	pc	78	44	pc
La Grande	65	46	pc	73	45	pc
Meacham	63	43	pc	70	43	pc
Medford	81	51	pc	86	55	pc
Newport	58	51	c	60	49	pc
North Bend	61	52	c	63	51	c
Ontario	77	52	s	84	53	pc
Pasco	80	52	c	83	48	pc
Pendleton	71	52	c	75	50	pc
Portland	69	54	c	73	54	c
Redmond	71	39	pc	79	43	pc
Salem	69	51	c	74	50	c
Spokane	69	51	pc	72	50	pc
Ukiah	64	43	c	70	43	pc
Vancouver	68	52	c	71	52	c
Walla Walla	75	56	c	79	55	pc
Yakima	77	48	pc	80	48	pc

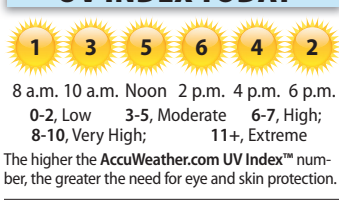
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	87	59	s	72	53	sh
Hong Kong	89	81	t	88	80	t
Jerusalem	75	58	s	77	58	s
London	74	54	pc	72	53	t
Mexico City	75	58	t	77	57	pc
Moscow	59	41	pc	51	37	sh
Paris	80	62	pc	80	59	pc
Rome	79	57	s	78	59	s
Seoul	79	57	pc	79	57	pc
Sydney	63	51	pc	64	54	pc
Tokyo	76	69	pc	82	64	s

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	WSW 6-12	WSW 7-14

UV INDEX TODAY

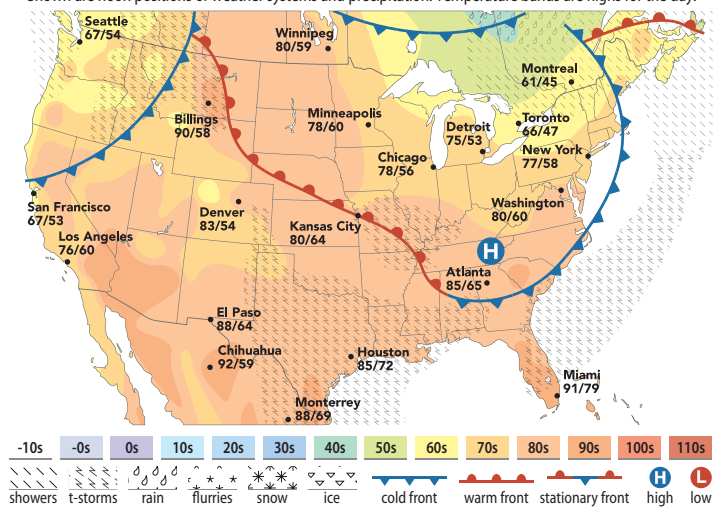


8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: June will start with thunderstorms rumbling over the Gulf Coast and mid-Mississippi Valley today. The northern High Plains will heat up ahead of showers and thunderstorms rattling the Rockies and Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 101° in Needles, Calif. Low 28° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	80	58	pc	83	61	pc	Louisville	83	61	pc	86	68	pc
Atlanta	85	65	pc	87	68	pc							