

# Measure 11 reform, other criminal justice bills move forward

Criminal justice policies are the theme of the week at the Oregon Legislature



Winters Prozanski

Senate vote, where the bill was championed by senators Jackie Winters, R-Salem, and Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, an opposition mounted.

The Oregon District Attorneys Association lobbied against it, as did Oregon Crime Victims United. Some argued that the bill would be retroactive, releasing criminals like Kip Kinkel, who killed his parents and then two students in a shooting at Springfield's Thurston High School in 1998.

The architects of the bill reject that idea, pointing to a line in the bill that says the law would apply "to sentences imposed on or after Jan. 1, 2020." Non-partisan legislative attorneys have backed up that reading of the bill.

The opposition has backed off of that claim, but is still pushing full force, saying this is about the Kip Kinkel of tomorrow, who won't be adequately punished if Measure 11 is reformed.

Crime Victims United released a video featuring the brother of one of Kinkel's victims. Reports have also surfaced about robocalls providing similar information. Both tell the public to call House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, to voice

opposition. Williamson is a leader of the bill and chairs the House Judiciary committee that just passed it.

"I think it's really unfortunate that people continue to vilify people like Kip, and use him as a boogey man" to undermine these policies, said Bobbin Singh, executive director of Oregon Justice Resource Center.

Singh's organization has worked for the past year to reform what he calls "bad policy." In that time, he has seen a swath of bipartisan support, including Republicans like Winters as well as so-called tough on crime groups like Right on Crime. Even the Koch network, well-known right-wing political donors, has lobbied in favor of the bill. Within the state, more than 30 retired judges have supported it, as has the Oregon Youth Authority and some district attorneys. However, the Oregon District Attorneys Association remains the biggest opponent of the policy.

"I think there is a lot of misinformation about the bill, which is being proffered by the opposition," Singh said.

On Tuesday, Rep. Mike McLane, R-Powell Butte, introduced an amendment on their behalf that would water down the reforms. It would also refer the bill to

voters.

The bill ended up passing 6-5. Williamson's office said they believe it has the 40 votes needed to pass the House.

## Death penalty changes

SB 1008 comes in a week where criminal justice reform seems very much in vogue. On Tuesday morning, Senate Bill 10131, which would limit the definition of aggravated murder, passed the Senate. It would also disallow considering "future dangerousness" as a factor in imposing the death penalty.

The bill was introduced by Prozanski, who said the original idea of the death penalty in Oregon was for reform, not for vindictive justice.

Prozanski said the U.S. Supreme Court has said there is no conclusive evidence to show the death penalty is a deterrent. He said since 1984, 60% of Oregon's death penalty cases have been reversed, mostly to instead impose life without parole.

He also made a fiscal argument: The average death penalty case costs \$1.4 million while non-death penalty murder cases cost an average of \$335,000.

The bill is not retroactive and now moves to the House.

## Marijuana conviction changes

The persistent message put out by advocates for 1008 and 1013 is that it's not retroactive, the entire point of Senate Bill 420 is to vacate old sentences. The bill from Sen. Lew Frederick, D-Portland, would set aside marijuana convictions imposed before the state legalized pot.

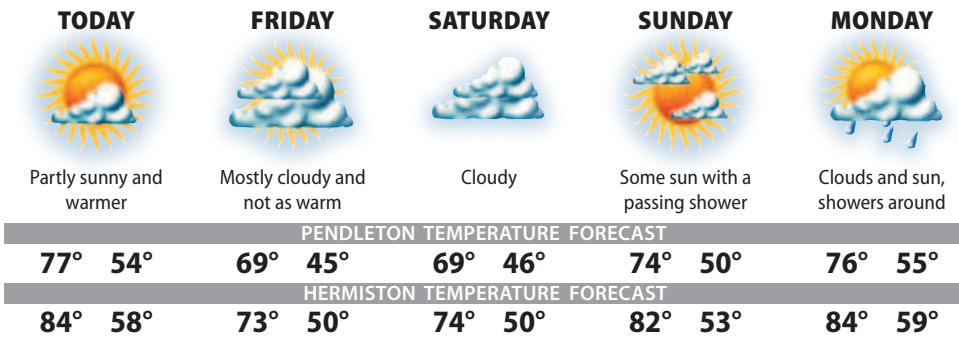
Frederick insists the name of the bill, the same as a marijuana holiday, is purely coincidental.

Tens of thousands of Oregonians — Frederick estimated 75,000 — have possession of marijuana convictions on their record. This can stop them from getting a job or housing, he testified.

The proposal looks to clean up a 2015 policy that went for the same effect, allowing people to get their records expunged. However, it turns out that's a costly and time-consuming process.

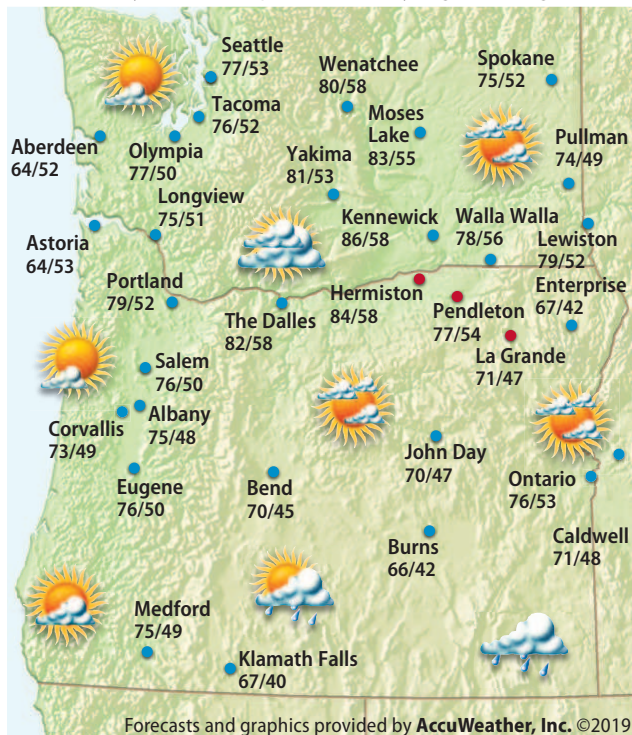
This bill directs the Oregon Department of Justice to seek out those convictions and set them aside. However, many drug possession charges don't clearly lay out which drug the offender possessed, making the ability to estimate how many marijuana charges there are in the state a difficult task.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



## ALMANAC

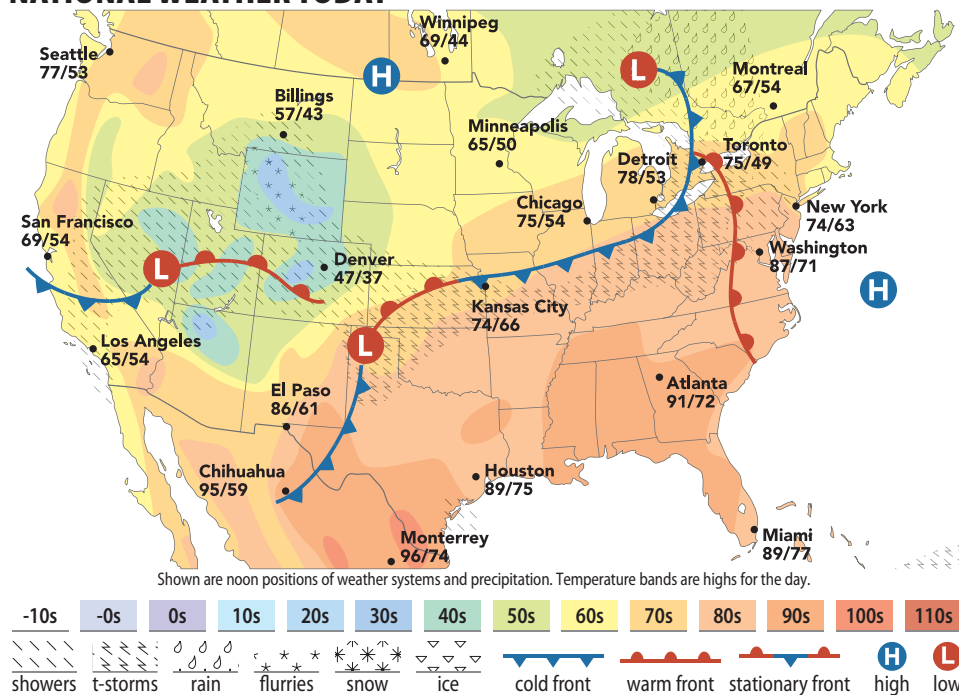
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	62°	49°	
Normals	72°	48°	
Records	94° (1951)	32° (1920)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.01"		
Month to date	1.35"		
Normal month to date	0.90"		
Year to date	9.11"		
Last year to date	6.07"		
Normal year to date	6.01"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	70°	53°	
Normals	74°	48°	
Records	95° (2001)	36° (2009)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace		
Month to date	0.44"		
Normal month to date	0.79"		
Year to date	4.32"		
Last year to date	4.96"		
Normal year to date	4.78"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Fri.		
Boardman	NNE 6-12	WSW 10-20	
Pendleton	NNW 6-12	WSW 10-20	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	5:16 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	8:28 p.m.		
Moonrise today	12:17 a.m.		
Moonset today	9:24 a.m.		
Last New First Full			
May 26	June 3	June 9	June 17

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 100° in Zapata, Texas Low 16° in Bridgeport, Calif.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signs sanctuary state law

Associated Press

SEATTLE — State and local authorities will now be restricted from asking about people's immigration status, adding to a West Coast wall of states with so-called sanctuary policies.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed a measure Tuesday implementing the new rules. They put Washington among only a handful of states, including California and Oregon, to have enacted statewide sanctuary policies and rank among the strongest statewide mandates in the nation.

Police officers in Washington won't be able to inquire about immigration status except in limited circumstances, and the state attorney general will draw up rules for courthouses, hospitals and other state government facilities aimed at limiting their use as places where federal immigration agents look for people in the country illegally.

"Our state agencies are not immigration enforcement agencies," said Ins-

lee, a Democrat who is also running for president. "We will not be complicit in the Trump administration's depraved efforts to break up hard-working immigrant and refugee families."

A 2017 executive order from Inslee imposed similar requirements but only on state agencies, a move advocates said fell short. Tuesday's bill expands the rules to include all local law enforcement.

That's significant because most police interactions tend to occur at the city and county level, rather than with state troopers, and because local police have long been targets for cooperation requests from federal immigration authorities, generating the majority of deportations, said Lena Graber, an attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit that tracks sanctuary policies.

Tuesday's bill, Graber said, gives Washington, "the strongest and most comprehensive state law on sanctuary in the country."

Under the bill, local law enforcement agencies are prohibited from asking about immigration status or place of birth unless directly connected to a criminal investigation, and both local jails and state prisons are prohibited from complying with voluntary "immigration holds" requested by federal authorities, or from notifying federal authorities when an immigrant is about to be released from their custody.

Local and state authorities are also prohibited from sharing immigration information about people in custody with immigration authorities, except under a valid court order or where required by law.

Graber said five other states have seen state laws, executive orders or rules used to create protections against coordination between local and federal law enforcement on non-criminal immigration investigations: Illinois, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Vermont.

# Environmental groups oppose plan to kill ravens to save grouse in Oregon

PORTLAND (AP) — Environmental advocates in Oregon have criticized a state plan to kill more than 1,000 ravens to help save the greater sage grouse, officials said.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife applied for permits in 2018 to kill up to 500 ravens per year over a three-year period to reduce the number preying upon greater sage grouse eggs, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported Tuesday.

The strategy of putting

poisoned chicken eggs in bait boxes in Baker County is flawed, environmentalists said.

Environmental groups including Oregon Wild, The Humane Society and the Center for Biological Diversity oppose the plan.

The strategy is part of "an unfortunate pattern of wildlife agencies scapegoating one wildlife species for the decline of another" without addressing primary causes of decline, said Bob Sallinger, conserva-

tion director at the Portland Audubon Society.

Population estimates show the sage grouse has declined by 30% across its native range, which includes 11 western states and parts of Canada. In Oregon where ravens are targeted, the grouse population has fallen by 75% since 2005.

Environmentalists said many more poisoned eggs need to be distributed than the number of ravens targeted, creating the potential to kill other species.

**CORRECTIONS:** The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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