

2025 Regular Session – Courts



Civil Commitment

A person diagnosed with a mental disorder who, because of that mental disorder, meets certain criteria based on their risk of harming other people, harming themselves, or being unable to safely survive can be involuntarily hospitalized for treatment by the state through a process called civil commitment under [ORS Chapter 426](#) (2023). In Oregon, the person must be a “person with mental illness,” a legal term defined in statute. A person can also be committed in Oregon if they are an “extremely dangerous person,” another defined legal term. A person may be committed for up to 180 days if a judge finds they meet the criteria.

[House Bill 2005](#) makes many changes to laws at the intersection of mental health, civil law, and criminal justice, including civil commitment. The measure modifies the civil commitment criteria by separating “danger to self” and “danger to others” into separate criteria, adds definitions to those terms, and specifies what the court should consider when determining whether someone meets the criteria. The measure also makes changes to voluntary treatment the person may receive prior to a commitment hearing. Prior to HB 2005, a person could participate in voluntary treatment for up to 14 days before a hearing rather than going to a hearing within the statutory maximum of five days after being held. The measure makes some procedural changes to the voluntary treatment period and extends the total amount of pre-hearing treatment to 28 days by allowing for a second 14-day period after the first.

HB 2005 also modifies the procedure for getting a Declaration of Mental Health Treatment (DMHT). A DMHT allows a person to declare the kind of mental health treatment they would authorize if they became “incapacitated.” The measure allows a person to pre-authorize a specified amount of involuntary hospitalization that they consent to if they become incapacitated. The measure also establishes court procedures for determining a person’s incapacity.

Judges

The legislature considered several bills related to judges this session. [Senate Bill 95](#) added five circuit court judges, two each for Lane and Clackamas Counties, and one for Douglas County. Lawmakers heard bills regarding judicial salaries, including [Senate Bill 96 A](#) (*not enacted*) and [House Bill 2712](#). HB 2712 increases the pay for judges in Oregon as well as

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See the **2025 Legislative Summary Report for Courts**, which highlights policy measures that received a public hearing during Oregon’s 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take actions and establish rules that promote judicial accountability and fair and accessible justice services. [Senate Bill 710](#) directs the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to establish minimum continuing education requirements for county circuit courts, the Tax Court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court judges.

Justice and Municipal Courts

Lawmakers comprehensively reformed, reorganized, and streamlined Oregon’s statutes governing justice and municipal courts and removed geographic limitations on justice court districts. [House Bill 2460](#), developed by an Oregon Law Commission workgroup, clarifies and revises justice and municipal court jurisdiction, criminal case processes, recordkeeping requirements, as well as the scope and process for appeals. [House Bill 2306](#) eliminates existing geographic limitations on justice court districts and allows counties to establish justice court districts that include a county seat or a city in which a circuit court operates. See also [Senate Bill 913](#) (*not enacted*).

Treatment Courts

In Oregon, “specialty courts,” as defined in [ORS 137.680](#) (2023), refers to Oregon’s many drug courts, veterans’ courts, mental health courts, and other similar courts or docketing systems. As of December 2023, Oregon had 66 such courts. In 2024, the legislature passed [House Bill 4001](#), creating the [Task Force on Specialty Courts](#) to study and make recommendations on four subject areas, in part responding to recent program closures and a difficult funding landscape. The Task Force on Specialty Courts adopted its [report](#) on November 8, 2024, which included 14 recommendations.

Following three of those recommendations, lawmakers passed [House Bill 2632](#). The measure establishes a statewide advisory committee on treatment courts appointed by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to make recommendations to the Chief Justice regarding treatment courts, changes the terms “specialty courts” and “drug courts” to “treatment courts” in statute, and requires treatment courts to use a case management system designated by the Chief Justice.

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