



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 6, 2018

To: [Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability](#)
[Senator Chuck Riley](#)

Re: [SB 1514](#) – Sunset Review of state boards, commissions, committees, task forces and other executive department entities – **Concerns**


The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the facilitation of efficient and effective administration of government. To that end, the elimination of those state government entities that are no longer working actively on current, vital work should be disbanded so that support staff time can be used more effectively for ongoing and more pressing work, and citizen volunteers can find more valuable areas to use their time on behalf of Oregon. In theory, we support the concept of using sunsets to cut out wasteful or outdated government bureaucracy, but we believe this bill is overbroad and may have negative unintended consequences.

First, this bill imposes on the directors of all agencies the time-consuming task of justifying the work of any boards, commissions, task forces, or other entities that are meeting on behalf of these agencies. Section 2 (3) (a-g) defines the criteria which must be included in the working entity's report, to be compiled by its agency director every six years, or more frequently if the reviewing legislative committee decides. Metrics for the work accomplished by some entities would be especially difficult to develop and measure and could be a burdensome distraction for a busy agency. It also takes legislators' valuable time from current session work.

These entities are how legislation is implemented. Some work is necessarily ongoing, such as land use planning and resource management. There is a mechanism for the entire legislature to address the missions of state agencies, and the legislature can also consider whether or not certain entities should continue. Should you consider this bill, the focus should be on creating a list of entities that have not met in a regular manner rather than a broad review of all.

It is most important that any process for eliminating a state entity be open and transparent to the public and to stakeholders who have a vested interest in the business of that entity.

These are our concerns about the bill in its present form. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.


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