



HB 3190

CULTURAL
ADVOCACY
COALITION
OF OREGON

Reauthorize Special Assessment for Historic Properties Program

Merwyn Apartments, Astoria
Photo courtesy of Restore Oregon (by Jeff Daly)

Since 1975, Oregon has incentivized investment in historic properties through the Special Assessment for Historic Properties Program. But the program ended in June 2024.

HB 3190 would reauthorize a new version of this program to once again provide a financial tool specifically for commercial property owners.

This bill would bring back a program that helps invest in our state's historic properties and ensure they are renovated and maintained responsibly. It would offer commercial properties a specially assessed value (calculated by the county assessor) for a ten-year benefit term in exchange for making appropriate improvements to the historic property.

At a time when our “main streets,” commercial corridors, and downtowns across the state need an infusion of support and financial investment, HB 3190 can play an important role in helping invest and revitalize these properties. It also aligns with and helps leverage existing programs like the Main Street Revitalization Grant Fund. And, it would provide a long-term incentive, as the benefit period is over ten years. This would provide an essential stabilizing benefit for our Oregon downtowns.

Many other states have multiple incentive tools (like a state historic tax credit or grant programs) but Oregon has no other state financial incentive program available specifically for historic commercial properties. HB 3190 would make a big impact.

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