

Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 654 — Occupational Safety and Health

New sections of law were enacted by the Legislative Assembly during its 2026 regular session and pertain to or are likely to be compiled in this ORS chapter. See sections in the following 2026 Oregon Laws chapters: [2026 Session Laws 0043](#)

2025 EDITION

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

LABOR, EMPLOYMENT; UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION

SAFETY AND HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

- 654.001 Short title
- 654.003 Purpose
- 654.005 Definitions
- 654.010 Employers to furnish safe place of employment
- 654.015 Unsafe or unhealthy place of employment prohibited
- 654.020 Interference with safety devices or methods prohibited; civil penalty
- 654.022 Duty to comply with safety and health orders, decisions and rules
- 654.025 Jurisdiction and supervision of Workers' Compensation Board, director and other state agencies over employment and places of employment; rules
- 654.031 Citation and order to correct unsafe or unhealthy conditions
- 654.035 Scope of rules and orders
- 654.056 Variance from safety or health standards; effect of variance on citations
- 654.062 Notice of violation to employer by worker; complaint by worker to director; inspection; employee protections; rebuttable presumption; rules
- 654.067 Inspection of places of employment; comprehensive inspections; denial of access; warrants; safety and health consultation with employees
- 654.071 Citation for safety or health standard violations; effect of failure to correct violation; posting of citations and notices by employer
- 654.078 Contesting violations; hearing; admissibility in criminal or civil proceedings of stipulations involving violations

- 654.082 Prohibiting use of equipment involved in violation; red warning notice
- 654.086 Civil penalty for violations; classification of violations; penalty adjustments; payment and disposition of penalty moneys; reporting
- 654.090 Occupational safety and health activities; voluntary compliance; rules; consultative services
- 654.097 Consultative services required; program standards; rules
- 654.101 Voluntary safety and health consultation; refusal to disclose report
- 654.120 Records of proceedings; confidentiality of certain information; federal reporting requirements; rules
- 654.130 Proceedings against unwilling witnesses
- 654.150 Sanitary facilities at construction projects; standards; exemptions
- 654.160 Applicability of ORS 654.150 to be included in construction contracts; liability for cost of compliance
- 654.165 Employees not required to work bare-handed or rubber-gloved on high voltage lines
- 654.170 Stairway railings and guards not required for certain public and historic buildings
- 654.172 Exemption from inspection or investigation for certain agricultural activities
- 654.174 Sanitation facilities for workers harvesting food crops; employer to post notice; rules

WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEES

- 654.176 Safety committee or safety meeting required
- 654.182 Rules for ORS 654.176; contents
- 654.189 Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee; members; terms; expenses; duties; meetings
- 654.191 Occupational Safety and Health Grant program; rules
- 654.192 Labor organization not liable for injury resulting from absence of safety or health provision

HAZARD COMMUNICATION AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

- 654.196 Rules on contents of piping systems; posting notice on right to be informed of hazardous substances; withholding of information under certain circumstances

INJURED WORKERS' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- 654.200 Scholarship account; use; standards for eligibility

HEALTH AND SANITATION INSPECTIONS

- 654.202 Issuance of warrants for safety and health inspections
- 654.206 Grounds for issuance of inspection warrants; requirements of affidavit

- 654.212 Procedure for issuance of inspection warrant by magistrate
- 654.216 Execution of inspection warrants
- 654.251 Assistance to director from other state agencies; inspection of farm labor camps and facilities
- 654.285 Admissibility of rules and orders of department in evidence in proceedings under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780
- 654.290 Applicability of Administrative Procedures Act; Administrative Law Judge qualifications
- 654.293 Representation of employer by attorney permitted
- 654.295 Application of Oregon Safe Employment Act

EMPLOYER LIABILITY LAW

- 654.305 Protection and safety of persons in hazardous employment generally
- 654.310 Places of employment; compliance with applicable orders, rules
- 654.315 Persons in charge of work to see that ORS 654.305 to 654.336 are complied with
- 654.320 Who considered agent of owner
- 654.325 Who may prosecute damage action for death; damages unlimited
- 654.330 Fellow servant negligence as defense
- 654.336 Comparative negligence

UTILITY VEHICLES

- 654.345 Safety standards for utility vehicle rentals

SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- 654.400 Use of title of industrial hygienist, occupational health and safety technologist, construction health and safety technician or safety professional; cause of action
- 654.402 Activities permitted under other designation, certification or license

SAFETY OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES

- 654.412 Definitions for ORS 654.412 to 654.423
- 654.413 Required policies regarding surgical smoke
- 654.414 Duties of health care employer; security and safety assessment; workplace violence prevention and protection program; requirements
- 654.416 Required records of assaults against employees; contents; summary report; rules

- 654.417 Duty of Department of Consumer and Business Services to submit consolidated report of assault records and incidents of workplace violence occurring on premises of health care provider; requirements
- 654.418 Protection of employee of health care employer after assault by patient
- 654.421 Refusal to treat certain patients by home health care employee
- 654.423 Use of physical force by health care employee in self-defense against assault

REPORTS OF ACCIDENTS TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

- 654.715 Report of accidents to Public Utility Commission; investigation; supplemental reports; rules
- 654.720 Public inspection or use of reports as evidence prohibited

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS USED IN AGRICULTURE

- 654.750 Definitions for ORS 654.750 to 654.780
- 654.760 Rules on hazardous chemicals, safety equipment and training
- 654.770 Basic information available to agricultural employers for employees; content; language
- 654.780 Providing basic information to employees

PENALTIES

- 654.991 Penalties

SAFETY AND HEALTH CONDITIONS IN PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

654.001 Short title. ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423, 654.750 to 654.780 and 654.991 may be cited as the Oregon Safe Employment Act. [1973 c.833 §2]

654.003 Purpose. The purpose of the Oregon Safe Employment Act is to ensure as far as possible safe and healthful working conditions for every working person in Oregon, to preserve our human resources and to reduce the substantial burden, in terms of lost production, wage loss, medical expenses, disability compensation payments and human suffering, that is created by occupational injury and disease. To accomplish this purpose the Legislative Assembly intends to provide a procedure that will:

- (1) Encourage employers and employees to reduce the number of occupational safety and health hazards and to institute new programs and improve existing programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions.
- (2) Establish a coordinated program of worker and employer education, health and safety consultative services, demonstration projects and research to assist workers and their employers in preventing occupational injury and disease, whatever the cause.
- (3) Authorize the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services and the designees of the director to set reasonable, mandatory, occupational safety and health standards for all employments and places of employment.
- (4) Provide an effective program, under the director, to enforce all laws, regulations, rules and standards adopted for the protection of the life, safety and health of employees, and in so doing, predominantly prioritize inspections of places of employment to first focus enforcement activities upon places of employment that the director reasonably believes to be the most unsafe.
- (5) Establish appropriate reporting and research procedures that will help achieve the objectives of the Oregon Safe Employment Act, identify occupational hazards and unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, and

describe the nature of the occupational safety and health problem.

(6) Assure that Oregon assumes fullest responsibility, in accord with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.), for the development, administration and enforcement of safety and health laws and standards. [1973 c.833 §3; 1987 c.884 §55; 1999 c.1017 §1; 2017 c.238 §1]

654.005 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) “Board” means the Workers’ Compensation Board created by ORS 656.712.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(3) “Director” means the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(4) “Employee” includes:

(a) Any individual, including a minor whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, who engages to furnish services for a remuneration, financial or otherwise, subject to the direction and control of an employer.

(b) Salaried, elected and appointed officials of the state, state agencies, counties, cities, school districts and other public corporations.

(c) Any individual who is provided with workers’ compensation coverage as a subject worker pursuant to ORS chapter 656, whether by operation of law or by election.

(5) “Employer” includes:

(a) Any person who has one or more employees.

(b) Any sole proprietor or member of a partnership who elects workers’ compensation coverage as a subject worker pursuant to ORS 656.128.

(c) Any successor or assignee of an employer. As used in this paragraph, “successor” means a business or enterprise that is substantially the same entity as the predecessor employer according to criteria adopted by the department by rule.

(6) “Owner” means every person having ownership, control or custody of any place of employment or of the construction, repair or maintenance of any place of employment.

(7) “Person” means one or more individuals, legal representatives, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, corporations (whether or not organized for profit), business trusts, any organized group of persons, the state, state agencies, counties, municipal corporations, school districts and other public corporations or subdivisions.

(8)(a) “Place of employment” includes:

(A) Every place, whether fixed or movable or moving, whether indoors or out or underground, and the premises and structures appurtenant thereto, where either temporarily or permanently an employee works or is intended to work; and

(B) Every place where there is carried on any process, operation or activity related, either directly or indirectly, to an employer’s industry, trade, business or occupation, including a labor camp, wherever located, provided by an employer for employees or by another person engaged in providing living quarters or shelters for employees.

(b) “Place of employment” does not include:

(A) Any place where the only employment involves nonsubject workers employed in or about a private home; and

(B) Any corporate farm where the only employment involves the farm’s family members, including parents, spouses, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, nieces, nephews or grandchildren.

[Amended by 1973 c.833 §4; 1975 c.102 §2; 1977 c.804 §34; 1987 c.373 §30; 1993 c.744 §17; 1999 c.433 §1; 2007 c.612 §1]

654.010 Employers to furnish safe place of employment. Every employer shall furnish employment and a place of employment which are safe and healthful for employees therein, and shall furnish and use such devices and safeguards, and shall adopt and use such practices, means, methods, operations and processes as are reasonably necessary to render such employment and place of employment safe and healthful, and shall do every other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, safety and health of such employees. [Amended by 1973 c.833 §5]

654.015 Unsafe or unhealthy place of employment prohibited. No employer or owner shall construct or cause to be constructed or maintained any place of employment that is unsafe or detrimental to health. [Amended by 1973 c.833 §6]

654.020 Interference with safety devices or methods prohibited; civil penalty. (1) No person shall remove, displace, damage, destroy or carry off any safety device or safeguard furnished and provided for use in any employment or place of employment, or interfere in any way with the use thereof by any other person, or interfere with the use of any method or process adopted for the protection of any employee in such employment or place of employment.

(2) If an employee is injured as a result of an employer's violation of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the employer shall be assessed a civil penalty under ORS 654.086 (1)(c).

(3) If removal or the rendering inoperative of a safety device or safeguard is necessary for repair or maintenance work, injuries sustained while the repair or maintenance work is being performed are exempted from this section. [Amended by 1973 c.833 §7; 1977 c.869 §1]

654.022 Duty to comply with safety and health orders, decisions and rules. Every employer, owner, employee and other person shall obey and comply with every requirement of every order, decision, direction, standard, rule or regulation made or prescribed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services in connection with the matters specified in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, or in any way relating to or affecting safety and health in employments or places of employment, or to protect the life, safety and health of employees in such employments or places of employment, and shall do everything necessary or proper in order to secure compliance with and observance of every such order, decision, direction, standard, rule or regulation. [Formerly 654.060; 1977 c.804 §35]

654.025 Jurisdiction and supervision of Workers' Compensation Board, director and other state agencies over employment and places of employment; rules. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services is vested with full power and jurisdiction over, and shall have such supervision of, every employment and place of employment in this state as may be necessary to enforce and administer all laws, regulations, rules, standards and lawful orders requiring such employment and place of employment to be safe and healthful, and requiring the protection of the life, safety and health of every employee in such employment or place of employment.

(2) The director and the Workers' Compensation Board may make, establish, promulgate and enforce all necessary and reasonable regulations, rules, standards, orders and other provisions for the purpose of carrying out their respective functions under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, notwithstanding any other statutory provisions which may be to the contrary. Nothing in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, however, shall authorize or require medical examination, immunization or treatment for those who object thereto on religious grounds, except where such is necessary to protect the health or safety of others.

(3)(a) The director may enforce all regulations, rules and standards duly adopted by any other state agency for the safety and health of employees.

(b) This grant of concurrent jurisdiction and authority to the director shall not be construed, however, as repealing or amending, or as derogating in any respect from, the statutory jurisdiction and authority of any other state agency to promulgate and enforce regulations, rules and standards and to conduct inspections and investigations, except that no other state agency shall issue the citations or assess the civil penalties provided in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780.

(c) In the event a state of facts or condition constitutes a violation of more than one rule, regulation, standard or order of the director or any other agency pertaining to occupational safety or health, the state of facts or condition shall be the basis for the issuance of only one citation and proceeding or the assessment of only one penalty unless the statute specifically provides that a continuation of a state of facts or a condition constitutes a new violation.

(d) Where another state agency, pursuant to its statutory authority, proposes to adopt a regulation, rule or standard relating to occupational safety or health, such agency shall accord the director an opportunity to review such regulation, rule or standard prior to its adoption for the purpose of assuring that employers will not be asked to comply with contradictory or inconsistent requirements or be burdened with an unnecessary duplication of occupational safety and health codes, inspections or reports.

(4) The board and the director may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take depositions and fix the fees and mileage of witnesses and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, books, accounts,

documents and testimony in any inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding in any part of the state, and the board and the director shall provide for defraying the expenses thereof.

(5) The director and the board may do and perform all things, whether specifically designated in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 or in addition thereto, which are necessary or convenient in the exercise of any power, authority or jurisdiction conferred upon them by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. The director's authority under this section shall include but is not limited to:

(a) Designating by order or rule any named state employee or category of state employees who shall have authority to exercise any of the duties and powers imposed upon the director by law and whose act as authorized by the order or rule shall be considered to be an official act of the director. The director may designate local government employees with public health administration or enforcement duties to exercise duties and powers imposed upon the director with respect to ORS 654.174 (1) and (2).

(b) Instituting any legal or equitable proceeding which would assist in the enforcement of any state occupational safety or health law or any regulation, rule, standard or order promulgated thereunder, including but not limited to seeking injunctive relief to enjoin an employer from operating the place of employment until the employer has complied with the provisions of such law, regulation, rule, standard or order. Upon the filing of a suit for an injunction by the director, the court shall set a day for hearing and shall cause notice thereof to be served upon the employer. The hearing shall be not less than five nor more than 15 days from the service of such notice. [Amended by 1973 c.833 §9; 1977 c.804 §36; 1979 c.839 §23; 1985 c.423 §6]

654.030 [Amended by 1973 c.833 §24; renumbered 654.130]

654.031 Citation and order to correct unsafe or unhealthy conditions. Whenever the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services has reason to believe, after an inspection or investigation, that any employment or place of employment is unsafe or detrimental to health or that the practices, means, methods, operations or processes employed or used in connection therewith are unsafe or detrimental to health, or do not afford adequate protection to the life, safety and health of the employees therein, the director shall issue such citation and order relative thereto as may be necessary to render such employment or place of employment safe and protect the life, safety and health of employees therein. The director may in the order direct that such additions, repairs, improvements or changes be made, and such devices and safeguards be furnished, provided and used, as are reasonably required to render such employment or place of employment safe and healthful, in the manner and within the time specified in the order. [Formerly 654.045]

654.035 Scope of rules and orders. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may, by general or special orders, or by regulations, rules, codes or otherwise:

(a) Declare and prescribe what devices, safeguards or other means of protection and what methods, processes or work practices are well adapted to render every employment and place of employment safe and healthful.

(b) Fix reasonable standards and prescribe and enforce reasonable orders for the adoption, installation, use and maintenance of devices, safeguards and other means of protection, and of methods, processes and work practices, including, but not limited to, work practices qualifications for equipment, materials and activities requiring special competence, to be as nearly uniform as possible, as may be necessary to carry out all laws relative to the protection of the life, safety and health of employees.

(c) Fix and order reasonable standards for the construction, repair and maintenance of places of employment and equipment that will render them safe and healthful.

(d) Fix standards for routine, periodic or area inspections of places of employment that are reasonably necessary in order to determine compliance with all occupational safety and health laws and the regulations, rules and standards adopted under occupational safety and health laws. Except for complaint inspections, follow-up inspections, imminent danger inspections, referral inspections and inspections to determine the cause of an occupational death, injury or illness, all inspections shall be based on written neutral administrative standards. The standards shall include a prioritized scheduling system for inspections that predominantly focuses enforcement activities upon places of employment that the director reasonably believes to be the most unsafe. The standards shall be accessible to employers under ORS 192.311 to 192.478 for at least 36 months from the last date the standards are in effect. The director shall notify in writing each employer whose place of employment is rated by the director as one of the most unsafe places of employment in the state of the increased

likelihood of inspection of the employer's place of employment and of the availability of consultative services. The director may by rule offer incentives to employers that elect consultative services before an inspection is conducted. Nothing in this paragraph prevents the director from conducting a random inspection of a place of employment as long as the inspection is scheduled and conducted pursuant to written neutral administrative standards.

(e) Require the performance of any other act that the protection of the life, safety and health of employees in employments and places of employment may demand.

(2) The director may not require the use of fall protection by workers engaged in steel erection at heights lower than the heights at which fall protection relating to steel erection is required by federal regulation. [Amended by 1973 c.833 §11; 1987 c.884 §9; 1999 c.1017 §2; 2003 c.595 §§1,2; 2005 c.27 §§1,2; 2007 c.686 §1]

654.040 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §34 (654.290 enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080)]

654.045 [Amended by 1973 c.833 §10; renumbered 654.031]

654.047 [Formerly 654.225; 1965 c.285 §82; repealed by 1973 c.833 §15 (654.067 enacted in lieu of 654.047, 654.222 and 654.232)]

654.050 [Amended by 1953 c.387 §2; 1957 c.436 §1; 1965 c.285 §69d; 1969 c.534 §1; 1971 c.251 §1; repealed by 1973 c.833 §19 (654.082 and 654.086 enacted in lieu of 654.050)]

654.055 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §12 (654.056 and 654.078 enacted in lieu of 654.055)]

654.056 Variance from safety or health standards; effect of variance on citations. (1) Any employer may apply to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, pursuant to regulations and procedures adopted by the director, for an order granting the employer a variance from a particular safety or health regulation, rule or standard.

(2) The director may grant a temporary variance only if the employer demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- (a) The employer is unable to comply with a new regulation, rule or standard by its effective date;
- (b) The employer has an effective program for complying with the law as quickly as practicable; and
- (c) The employer is taking all available steps in the interim to safeguard the employees of the employer against the hazards covered by the regulation, rule or standard.

(3) The director may grant a permanent variance only if the employer demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the conditions, practices, means, methods, operations or processes used or proposed to be used by the employer will provide employment and a place of employment which are as safe and healthful as those which would prevail if the employer complied with the regulation, rule or standard.

(4) Where the director proposes to deny a request for a variance, the employer shall be given an opportunity for a hearing before the Workers' Compensation Board in which the employer may contest the proposed denial.

(5) Where the director proposes to grant a variance, the affected employees shall be given an opportunity for a hearing before the board in which they may contest the proposed variance.

(6) A request for a variance which is filed after an inspection or investigation by the director will not act to stay or dismiss any citation which may result from such inspection or investigation, and an order granting the requested variance shall have no retroactive effect.

(7) An order granting a variance may be modified or revoked by the director upon the director's own motion or upon the application of the employer or an affected employee or representative of the employee, in the manner prescribed for its issuance at any time after six months from its issuance. [1973 c.833 §13 (enacted in lieu of 654.055); 1977 c.804 §37]

654.060 [Amended by 1973 c.833 §8; renumbered 654.022]

654.062 Notice of violation to employer by worker; complaint by worker to director; inspection; employee protections; rebuttable presumption; rules. (1) Every employee should notify the employer of any violation of law, regulation or standard pertaining to safety and health in the place of employment when the violation comes to the knowledge of the employee.

(2) However, any employee or representative of the employee may complain to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or any authorized representatives of the director of any violation of law, regulation or standard pertaining to safety and health in the place of employment, whether or not the employee also notifies the employer.

(3) Upon receiving any employee complaint, the director shall make inquiries, inspections and investigations that the director considers reasonable and appropriate. When an employee or representative of the employee has complained in writing of an alleged violation and no resulting citation is issued to the employer, the director shall furnish to the employee or representative of the employee, upon written request, a statement of reasons for the decision.

(4) The director shall establish procedures for keeping confidential the identity of any employee who requests protection in writing. When a request has been made, neither a written complaint from an employee, or representative of the employee, nor a memorandum containing the identity of a complainant may be disclosed under ORS 192.311 to 192.478.

(5) It is an unlawful employment practice for any person to bar or discharge from employment or otherwise discriminate against any employee or prospective employee because the employee or prospective employee has:

(a) Opposed any practice forbidden by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780;

(b) Made any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding;

(c) Exercised on behalf of the employee, prospective employee or others any right afforded by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780;

(d) In good faith reported an assault or other incident of workplace violence that occurred on the premises of a health care employer as defined in ORS 654.412 or in the home of a patient receiving home health care services; or

(e) With no reasonable alternative and in good faith, refused to expose the employee or prospective employee to serious injury or death arising from a hazardous condition at a place of employment.

(6)(a) Any employee or prospective employee alleging to have been barred or discharged from employment or otherwise discriminated against in compensation, or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment, in violation of subsection (5) of this section may, within one year after the employee or prospective employee has reasonable cause to believe that the violation has occurred, file a complaint with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries alleging discrimination under the provisions of ORS 659A.820. Upon receipt of the complaint the commissioner shall process the complaint under the procedures, policies and remedies established by ORS chapter 659A and the policies established by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 in the same way and to the same extent that the complaint would be processed if the complaint involved allegations of unlawful employment practices under ORS 659A.030 (1)(g).

(b) Within 90 days after receipt of a complaint filed under this subsection, the commissioner shall notify the complainant of the commissioner's determination.

(c) The affected employee or prospective employee may bring a civil action in any circuit court of the State of Oregon against any person alleged to have violated subsection (5) of this section. The civil action must be commenced within one year after the employee or prospective employee has reasonable cause to believe a violation has occurred, unless a complaint has been timely filed under ORS 659A.820.

(d) Subject to paragraph (e) of this subsection, the commissioner or the circuit court may order all appropriate relief including rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's former position with back pay.

(e) If the commissioner or the circuit court finds that a behavioral health employer discharged an employee in violation of subsection (5) of this section, the employee shall have the right to be reinstated to the employee's former position with back pay.

(7)(a) In any action brought under subsection (6) of this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that a violation of subsection (5) of this section has occurred if a person bars or discharges an employee or prospective employee from employment or otherwise discriminates against an employee or prospective employee within 60

days after the employee or prospective employee has engaged in any of the protected activities described in subsection (5)(a) to (e) of this section. The person may rebut the presumption that a violation of subsection (5) of this section has occurred by a demonstration of a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) If a person bars or discharges an employee or prospective employee from employment or otherwise discriminates against the employee or prospective employee more than 60 days after the employee or prospective employee has engaged in any of the protected activities described under subsection (5)(a) to (e) of this section, such action does not create a presumption in favor of or against finding that a violation of subsection (5) of this section has occurred. Where such action has occurred more than 60 days after the protected activity, this subsection does not modify any existing rule of case law relating to the proximity of time between a protected activity and an adverse employment action. The burden of proof shall be on the employee or prospective employee to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that a violation occurred.

(8) The director shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of subsection (5)(e) of this section that are in accordance with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.).

(9) As used in this section, "behavioral health employer" means:

- (a) A residential treatment facility, as defined in ORS 443.400;
- (b) A residential treatment home, as defined in ORS 443.400;
- (c) A secure residential treatment facility, as described in ORS 443.465, unless the facility is located on an Oregon State Hospital campus or otherwise operated by the state;
- (d) A secure residential treatment home, as described in ORS 443.465;
- (e) A sobering facility, as defined in ORS 430.306;
- (f) A detoxification center, as defined in ORS 430.306;
- (g) A halfway house, as defined in ORS 430.306;
- (h) A mobile crisis intervention team, as defined in ORS 430.626; or
- (i) An emergency shelter. [Formerly 654.235; 1973 c.833 §14; 1983 c.275 §1; 1999 c.55 §3; 2001 c.621 §82; 2005 c.198 §1; 2007 c.279 §1; 2019 c.350 §3; 2021 c.293 §1; 2021 c.336 §1; 2023 c.196 §1; 2025 c.125 §2; 2025 c.535 §6; 2025 c.561 §3]

654.065 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §34 (654.290 enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080)]

654.067 Inspection of places of employment; comprehensive inspections; denial of access; warrants; safety and health consultation with employees. (1) In order to carry out the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, upon presenting appropriate credentials to the owner, employer or agent in charge, is authorized:

- (a) To enter without delay and at reasonable times any place of employment;
- (b) To inspect and investigate during regular working hours and at other reasonable times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such place of employment and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment and materials therein, and to question privately the owner, employer, agents or employees; and
- (c) To conduct a comprehensive inspection of any place of employment as deemed necessary by the department based upon the prior violation history of the place of employment regarding any state occupational safety or health law, regulation, standard, rule or order.

(2) Whenever an accident investigation reveals that a violation has caused or contributed to a work-related fatality at a place of employment, the director shall conduct a comprehensive inspection of the place of employment within one year following the date on which the closing conference associated with the work-related fatality was held.

(3) Whenever three or more willful or repeated violations occur at a place of employment within a one-year period, the director shall conduct a comprehensive inspection of the place of employment within one year following the date on which the closing conference associated with the most recent willful or repeated violation was held.

(4) No person shall give an owner, employer, agent or employee advance notice of any inspection to be conducted under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 of any place of employment without authority from the director.

(5) Except in the case of an emergency, or of a place of employment open to the public, if the director is denied access to any place of employment for the purpose of an inspection or investigation, such inspection or investigation shall not be conducted without an inspection warrant obtained pursuant to ORS 654.202 to 654.216, or without such other authority as a court may grant in an appropriate civil proceeding. Nothing contained herein, however, is intended to affect the validity of a constitutionally authorized inspection conducted without an inspection warrant.

(6) A representative of the employer and a representative authorized by the employees of the employer shall be given an opportunity to accompany the director during the inspection of any place of employment for the purpose of aiding such inspection. When there is no employee representative, or the employee representative is not an employee of the employer, the director should consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning matters of safety and health in the place of employment.

(7) The representative of the employer may, at the employer's option, be an attorney retained by the employer.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Accident investigation" means an official examination of a place of employment conducted by a compliance officer who is responsible for carrying out inspections and investigations on behalf of the department, that includes a systematic appraisal of an accident sequence to determine causal factors, corrective actions and preventative measures.

(b) "Closing conference" means a process that informs the employer and the employee representatives, if any, of the findings resulting from an inspection of a place of employment and any other pertinent issues related to the inspection.

(c) "Comprehensive inspection" means a substantially complete inspection of a place of employment that, in the professional judgment of the inspector who conducts the inspection, may be deemed comprehensive although not all potentially hazardous conditions, operations and practices within the place of employment are inspected. [1973 c.833 §16 (enacted in lieu of 654.047, 654.222 and 654.232); 1999 c.1017 §3; 2023 c.126 §1]

654.070 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §34 (654.290 enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080)]

654.071 Citation for safety or health standard violations; effect of failure to correct violation; posting of citations and notices by employer. (1) If the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or an authorized representative of the director has reason to believe, after inspection or investigation of a place of employment, that an employer has violated any state occupational safety or health law, regulation, standard, rule or order, the director or the authorized representative shall with reasonable promptness issue to such employer a citation, and notice of proposed civil penalty, if any, to be assessed under this chapter, and fix a reasonable time for correction of the alleged violation.

(2) Each citation and notice required by subsection (1) of this section shall be in writing, shall be mailed to or served upon the employer or a registered agent of the employer, and shall contain:

(a) The date and place of the alleged violation;

(b) A plain statement of the facts upon which the citation is based;

(c) A reference to the law, regulation, rule, standard or order relied upon;

(d) The amount, if any, of the proposed civil penalty;

(e) The time, if any, fixed for the correction of the alleged violation;

(f) Notice of the employer's right to contest the citation, the proposed civil penalty and the period of time fixed for correction of the alleged violation; and

(g) Notice of any affected employee's right to contest the period of time fixed for correction of the alleged violation.

(3) No citation or notice of proposed civil penalty may be issued under this section after the expiration of 180 days following the start of the inspection or investigation, but this shall not prevent the issuance, at any time, of an order to correct that violation or the issuance of a citation for a subsequent violation.

(4) If the director has reason to believe that an employer has failed to correct a violation within the period of time fixed for correction, or within the time fixed in a subsequent order granting an extension of time to correct the violation, the director shall consider such failure as a separate and continuing violation and shall issue a citation and notice of proposed civil penalty, if any, to be assessed pursuant to ORS 654.086 (1)(d).

(5) The director may prescribe procedures for the issuance of a notice in lieu of citation to inform an employer and employees of a minimal violation that has no direct or immediate relationship to occupational safety or health.

(6) Each citation and notice, or copies thereof, issued under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 shall be posted by the employer, immediately upon receipt, in a conspicuous manner in a sufficient number of locations in the place or places of employment to reasonably inform employees of such citation and notice.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the director or authorized representative of the director shall deliver to the operator of a farm labor camp a copy of any notice, evaluation report or citation resulting from the inspection. [1973 c.833 §17; 1981 c.696 §4; 1999 c.72 §1; 1999 c.1017 §4]

654.074 [1973 c.833 §17a; repealed by 1977 c.804 §55]

654.075 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §34 (654.290 enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080)]

654.078 Contesting violations; hearing; admissibility in criminal or civil proceedings of stipulations involving violations. (1) An employer may contest a citation, a proposed assessment of civil penalty and the period of time fixed for correction of a violation, or any of these, by filing with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, within 30 days after receipt of the citation, notice or order, a written request for a hearing before the Workers' Compensation Board. Such a request need not be in any particular form, but shall specify the alleged violation that is contested and the grounds upon which the employer considers the citation or proposed penalty or correction period unjust or unlawful.

(2) An affected employee or representative of such employees may contest the time fixed for correction of a violation by filing with the department, within 30 days after the receipt by the employer of the citation, notice or order which fixes such time for correction, a written request for a hearing before the board. Such a request need not be in any particular form, but shall specify the violation in question and the grounds upon which the employee considers the correction period to be unreasonable.

(3) A hearing on any question relating to the validity of a citation or the proposed civil penalty to be assessed therefor shall not be granted unless a request for hearing is filed by the employer within the period specified in subsection (1) of this section. If a request for hearing is not so filed, the citation and the assessment of penalty as proposed shall be a final order of the department and shall not be subject to review by any agency or court.

(4) A hearing relating to the reasonableness of the time prescribed for the correction of a violation shall not be granted, except for good cause shown, unless a request for hearing is filed within the period specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. If a request for hearing is not so filed the time fixed for correction of the violation shall be a final order of the department and shall not be subject to review by any agency or court.

(5) Where an employer contests, in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties, the period of time fixed for correction of a nonserious violation, such period of time shall not run between the date the request for hearing is filed and the date the order of the department becomes final by operation of law or on appeal.

(6) Where an employer or employee contests the period of time fixed for correction of a serious violation, any hearing on that issue shall be conducted as soon as possible and shall take precedence over other hearings conducted by the board under the provisions of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780.

(7) Where informal disposition of a contested case is made by stipulation, agreed settlement or a consent order, such stipulation, settlement or order shall not be pleaded or admissible in evidence as an admission or confession in any criminal prosecution or in any other civil proceeding that may be instituted against the employer, except in the case of a civil proceeding brought to enforce such stipulation, settlement or order. [1973 c.833 §18 (enacted in lieu of 654.055); 1977 c.804 §38; 2007 c.432 §1]

654.080 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §34 (654.290 enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080)]

654.082 Prohibiting use of equipment involved in violation; red warning notice. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, or an authorized representative of the director with the approval of the director or, pursuant to such rules and procedures as the director may prescribe, with the approval of the director, to preclude exposure to a condition which, if such exposure occurred would constitute a violation of any statute, or of any lawful regulation, rule, standard or order affecting employee safety or health at a place of employment, may preclude exposure by prohibiting use of the machine, equipment, apparatus or place of employment constituting such condition. When use is prohibited a red warning notice shall be posted in plain view of any person likely to use the same, calling attention to the condition, defect, lack of safeguard or unsafe or unhealthful place of employment and the fact that further use is prohibited.

(2) No person shall use or operate any place of employment, machine, device, apparatus or equipment, after the red warning notice required by this section is posted, before such place of employment, machine, device, apparatus or equipment is made safe and healthful, and the required safeguards or safety appliances or devices are provided, and authorization for the removal of such red warning notice has been obtained from the director. However, nothing in this subsection prohibits an employer from directing employees to use or operate any such place of employment, machine, device, apparatus or equipment exclusively for the purpose of remedying the violation as specifically designated by the director in the red warning notice.

(3) No person shall deface, destroy or remove any red warning notice posted pursuant to this section until authorization for the removal of such notice has been obtained from the director. [1973 c.833 §20 (enacted in lieu of 654.050); 1975 c.102 §3; 1977 c.804 §39; 1977 c.869 §2a]

654.085 [Amended by 1973 c.833 §33; renumbered 654.285]

654.086 Civil penalty for violations; classification of violations; penalty adjustments; payment and disposition of penalty moneys; reporting. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the authorized representative of the director has the authority to assess civil penalties as provided by this section for violation of the requirements of a state occupational safety or health statute or the lawful rules, standards or orders adopted under the statute, as follows:

(a)(A) Any employer who receives a citation for a serious violation of such requirements shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$15,625, but not less than \$1,116, for each violation.

(B) If the serious violation caused or contributed to the death of an employee, the civil penalty amount shall be increased to not more than \$50,000, but not less than \$20,000, for each violation.

(b) Any employer who receives a citation for a violation of such requirements, and such violation is specifically determined not to be of a serious nature, may be assessed a civil penalty, not to exceed \$15,625, for each violation.

(c)(A) Any employer who willfully or repeatedly violates such requirements may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$156,259, but not less than \$11,162, for each willful or repeated violation.

(B) If an employer's willful or repeated violation caused or contributed to the death of an employee, the civil penalty amount shall be increased to not more than \$250,000, but not less than \$50,000, for each willful or repeated violation.

(C) In determining whether a violation is repeated for purposes of this subsection, the director shall consider the employer's history of violating the requirements of a state occupational safety or health statute or the lawful rules, standards or orders adopted under the statute.

(d) Any employer who receives a citation, as provided in ORS 654.071 (4), for failure to correct a violation may be assessed a civil penalty, not to exceed \$15,625, for each day during which the violation continues.

(e) Any employer who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification regarding the correction of a violation shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$100.

(f) Any employer who violates any of the posting requirements, as prescribed under the provisions of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, may be assessed a civil penalty for each violation.

(g) Any person who violates the provisions of ORS 654.082 (2) or (3) shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$100 for each violation.

(h) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, an employer who substantially fails to comply with ORS 654.174 (1) shall be assessed a civil penalty of not less than \$250 for each violation.

(i) Any insurer or self-insured employer who violates any provision of ORS 654.097, or any rule or order carrying out ORS 654.097, shall be assessed a civil penalty. Each violation, or each day a violation continues, shall be considered a separate offense.

(2) For the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 a serious violation exists in a place of employment if there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a condition which exists, or from one or more practices, means, methods, operations or processes which have been adopted or are in use, in such place of employment unless the employer did not, and could not with the exercise of reasonable diligence, know of the presence of the violation.

(3) Civil penalties assessed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services against an employer for repeated violations of any of the following may not receive a penalty adjustment, based on employer size, that reduces the amount of the civil penalty assessed against the employer, unless the penalty adjustment is conditioned upon the employer agreeing to comply with additional abatement measures as determined by the department:

(a) A willful violation under subsection (1)(c) of this section; and

(b) A serious violation resulting in a work-related fatality.

(4) The director shall, not later than January 15 of each year, adjust the amount of civil penalties that may be imposed under this section to account for the percentage increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor or its successor.

(5) When an order assessing a civil penalty becomes final by operation of law or on appeal, unless the amount of penalty is paid within 20 days after the order becomes final, it constitutes a judgment and may be recorded with the county clerk in any county of this state. The clerk shall thereupon record the name of the person incurring the penalty and the amount of the penalty in the County Clerk Lien Record. The penalty provided in the order so recorded shall become a lien upon the title to any interest in property owned by the person against whom the order is entered, and execution may be issued upon the order in the same manner as execution upon a judgment of a court of record.

(6) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, civil penalties collected under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 shall be paid into the Consumer and Business Services Fund.

(7) Civil penalties assessed under this section for a violation of ORS 658.750 shall be credited to the Agricultural Worker Housing Development Account of the Oregon Housing Fund.

(8) The director shall submit a report at least annually to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to business and labor that summarizes:

(a) The total number and total amount of penalties assessed by the department;

(b) The total number of appeals of citations, violations and penalty assessments filed with the department; and

(c) The total number of inspections completed by the department, along with the scope of the inspections and the circumstances that led to the inspections. [1973 c.833 §21 (enacted in lieu of 654.050); 1981 c.696 §5; 1983 c.696 §22; 1985 c.423 §4; 1987 c.884 §56; 1989 c.962 §20; 1991 c.67 §159; 1991 c.570 §1; 1991 c.640 §2; 1995 c.640 §1; 2001 c.310 §4; 2007 c.432 §2; 2017 c.238 §2; 2021 c.525 §25; 2023 c.126 §2]

654.090 Occupational safety and health activities; voluntary compliance; rules; consultative services.

In order to carry out the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 and encourage voluntary compliance with occupational safety and health laws, regulations and standards and to promote more effective workplace health and safety programs, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall:

(1) Develop greater knowledge and interest in the causes and prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases and related subjects through:

(a) Research, conferences, lectures and the use of public communications media;

(b) The collection and dissemination of accident statistics; and

(c) The publication and distribution of training and accident prevention materials, including audio and visual aids.

(2) Appoint advisers who shall, without compensation, assist the director in establishing standards of safety and health. The director may adopt and incorporate in its regulations, rules and standards such safety and health

recommendations as it may receive from such advisers.

(3) Provide consultative services for employers on safety and health matters and prescribe procedures which will permit any employer to request a special inspection or investigation, focused on specific problems or hazards in the place of employment of the employer or to request assistance in developing a plan to correct such problems or hazards, which will not directly result in a citation and civil penalty.

(4) Place emphasis, in the research, education and consultation program, on development of a model for providing services to groups of small employers in particular industries and their employees.

(5) Separately administer the voluntary compliance and research, education and consultation activities described in this section and the enforcement activities described in ORS 654.025 to 654.086. [Amended by 1965 c.285 §69h; 1973 c.833 §22; 1987 c.884 §57; 1997 c.249 §198]

654.092 [Formerly 654.255; repealed by 1965 c.285 §95]

654.093 [Formerly 654.265; repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.094 [Formerly 654.270; repealed by 1965 c.285 §95]

654.095 [Amended by 1965 c.285 §69e; repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.096 [Formerly 654.275; repealed by 1967 c.92 §5]

654.097 Consultative services required; program standards; rules. (1)(a) An insurer that provides workers' compensation coverage to employers pursuant to ORS chapter 656 shall furnish occupational safety and health loss control consultative services to its insured employers in accordance with standards established by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(b) A self-insured employer shall establish and implement an occupational safety and health loss control program in accordance with standards established by the director.

(2) An insurer or self-insured employer may furnish any of the services required by this section through an independent contractor.

(3) The program of an insurer for furnishing loss control consultative services as required by this section shall be adequate to meet the minimum standards prescribed by the director by rule from time to time. Such services shall include the conduct of workplace surveys to identify health and safety problems, review of employer injury records with appropriate persons and development of plans for improvement of employer health and safety loss records. At the time a workers' compensation insurance policy is issued and on an annual basis thereafter, the insurer shall notify its insured employers of the loss control consultative services that the insurer is required by rule to offer, without additional charge as provided in this section, and shall provide a written description of the services that the insurer does offer.

(4) The insurer shall not charge any fee in addition to the insurance premium for safety and health loss control consultative services.

(5) Each insurer shall make available, at the request of the director and in the form prescribed by the director, its annual expenditures for safety and health loss control activities for the prior year and its budget for safety and health loss control activities for the following year.

(6) As used in this section, "employer," "insurer" and "self-insured employer" have the meaning for those terms provided in ORS 656.005. [Formerly 656.451; 2007 c.241 §21]

Note: 654.097 was added to and made a part of 654.001 to 654.295 by legislative action but was not added to any smaller series therein. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

654.100 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §31 (654.251 enacted in lieu of 654.100)]

654.101 Voluntary safety and health consultation; refusal to disclose report. (1) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Safety and health consultation" means a voluntary review or inspection of a facility or equipment to improve workplace safety. "Safety and health consultation" does not include:

(A) An investigation of an occupational accident, illness or disease; or
(B) A discussion between employees of an employer or between employees of several employers in a multiemployer work setting.

(b) "Safety and health consultation report" means documentation of a safety and health consultation, including recommendations and supporting documents created by a consultant.

(2) In any inspection, investigation or administrative proceeding under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, an employer for which a safety and health consultation has occurred may refuse to disclose and may prevent any other person from disclosing a safety and health consultation report that results from the safety and health consultation. [1999 c.584 §2]

Note: 654.101 was added to and made a part of 654.001 to 654.295 and 654.750 to 654.780 by legislative action but was not added to any smaller series therein. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

654.105 [1957 c.156 §1; 1959 c.684 §1; repealed by 1973 c.833 §29 (654.241 enacted in lieu of 654.105 and 654.226)]

654.110 [1957 c.156 §2; 1959 c.684 §3; repealed by 1971 c.251 §2]

654.120 Records of proceedings; confidentiality of certain information; federal reporting requirements; rules. (1) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall maintain, for a reasonable time, records of all inspections, investigations, employee complaints, employer reports, citations, hearings, proceedings and any other matters necessary for achieving the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780.

(2) Each employer shall keep records, in the manner prescribed by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, of work-related deaths and serious injuries and illnesses, and of such other relevant occupational safety and health matters as are reasonably necessary for achieving the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. Each employer shall notify the director forthwith of the work-related death of any employee of the employer, and shall make such other reports as the director may reasonably prescribe by rule or order.

(3) All information reported to or otherwise obtained by the department in connection with any matter or proceeding under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 which contains or which might reveal a trade secret referred to in section 1905, title 18, United States Code, shall be considered confidential for the purposes of that section, except that such information may be disclosed to other officers or employees of the department or other agencies concerned with carrying out their duties under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 or when relevant in any proceeding under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 or under 654.991. In any such matter or proceeding the department, the other state agency, the Administrative Law Judge, the Workers' Compensation Board or the court shall issue such orders as may be appropriate to protect the confidentiality of trade secrets.

(4) The director will make reports to the Secretary of Labor of the United States in such form and containing such information as the Secretary of Labor shall from time to time require pursuant to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.).

(5) Nothing contained in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 shall relieve an employer from making such reports to the Secretary of Labor of the United States as may be required by federal law. [1973 c.833 §23; 1977 c.804 §40; 2017 c.238 §3]

654.130 Proceedings against unwilling witnesses. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the Workers' Compensation Board, or the authorized representative or designee of the director or the board before whom testimony is to be given or produced, in case of the refusal of any witness to attend or testify or produce any papers as required by subpoena, may report to the circuit court in the county in which the inquiry, investigation, hearing or other proceeding is pending, by petition setting forth that due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of the witness, or the production of the papers, and that the witness has been subpoenaed in the manner prescribed and that the witness has failed and refused to attend or produce the papers required by the subpoena or has refused to answer questions propounded to the witness in the

course of such proceeding, and ask an order of the court to compel the witness to attend and testify or produce said papers.

(2) The court, upon receiving the petition, shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed in such order, the time to be not more than 10 days from the date of the order, and then and there show cause why the witness has not attended and testified or produced the papers.

(3) A copy of the order shall be served upon the witness.

(4) If it is apparent to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued, the court shall thereupon enter an order that the witness appear before the director or the board or the authorized representative or designee of the director or the board at a time and place to be fixed in such order, and testify and produce the required papers and upon failure to obey the order the witness shall be dealt with as for contempt of court. [Formerly 654.030; 1979 c.839 §24]

654.150 Sanitary facilities at construction projects; standards; exemptions. (1) At the site of every construction project estimated to cost \$1 million or more the employer or owner of such place of employment shall provide toilet facilities and facilities for maintaining personal cleanliness for the use of employees on the construction project. Flush toilets shall be provided and the washing facilities shall consist of warm water, wash basins and soap. A building or a mobile, self-contained unit may be provided for such facilities. The number, types and maintenance of facilities shall conform to minimum standards set by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to highway construction or maintenance projects or to electricity, water, sewer or gas transmission facility construction or maintenance projects.

(3) The director may, by order, exempt or partially exempt, individual or classes of construction projects from the requirements of subsection (1) of this section when conditions are such that compliance is impractical or impossible. [1975 c.751 §2; 1993 c.450 §1]

654.154 [1995 c.163 §2; renumbered 654.172 in 2005]

654.155 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.160 Applicability of ORS 654.150 to be included in construction contracts; liability for cost of compliance. (1) A statement as to whether or not ORS 654.150 applies at the construction site shall be included in the contract for a construction project. If the contract states that ORS 654.150 applies, the owner shall also include in the contract documents a provision designating which party to the contract is responsible for any costs that may be incurred in complying with ORS 654.150 and the rules adopted pursuant thereto.

(2) The owner of a construction site is liable to any contractor who is an employer at the site for costs incurred by the contractor if:

(a) Representatives of the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services decide that ORS 654.150 applies to the construction project, and the contract documents did not designate which party to the contract for the project was responsible for complying with ORS 654.150 and the rules adopted pursuant thereto; and

(b) The contractor incurs additional costs in complying with ORS 654.150.

(3) In addition to being liable for the amount of the additional costs incurred, as provided by subsection (2) of this section, the owner is liable for interest on the amount at the rate of one percent per month from the date such contractor makes demand upon the owner to reimburse the contractor for such costs until the contractor is paid. [1977 c.129 §2]

654.165 Employees not required to work bare-handed or rubber-gloved on high voltage lines. No employer shall require an employee to perform bare-handed or rubber-gloved work on a live electrical line with a voltage of 5,000 volts or greater. [1991 c.549 §2]

Note: 654.165 was added to and made a part of 654.001 to 654.295 by legislative action but was not added to any smaller series therein. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

654.170 Stairway railings and guards not required for certain public and historic buildings. Nothing in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 requires the installation of railings or guards on exterior stairways providing access to and egress from the State Capitol Building or the grand staircases to the chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building or any staircase in any public monument or memorial or building of historic significance. [1977 c.780 §2]

654.172 Exemption from inspection or investigation for certain agricultural activities. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Oregon Safe Employment Act, an employer engaged in agricultural activities with 10 or fewer agricultural employees is exempt from inspection or investigation under ORS 654.067 under the following conditions:

(a) There has not been a complaint filed pursuant to ORS 654.062 or, within the preceding two-year period, an accident at the employer's agricultural place of employment resulting in death or serious disabling injury from violation of the Oregon Safe Employment Act or rules adopted pursuant thereto.

(b) The employer and principal supervisors of the agricultural employees annually attend four hours of instruction on agricultural safety rules and procedures at a course conducted or approved by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(c) The agricultural activities are inspected once every four years by an individual acting in a safety consultant capacity, and all violations found upon inspection are remedied within 90 days of the date of inspection.

(2) In order to promote communication and understanding between the director and agricultural interests, the director shall appoint an agricultural advisory committee of seven agricultural employers, each with 10 or fewer agricultural employees, to review and consult with the director on the administration of the Oregon Safe Employment Act with regard to agricultural activities. [Formerly 654.154]

654.174 Sanitation facilities for workers harvesting food crops; employer to post notice; rules. (1) Employers of workers who are engaged in field activities for the growing and harvesting of food crops intended for human consumption shall provide for such workers at convenient locations, and in accordance with such rules as the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may prescribe:

(a) Toilet facilities that are maintained in clean and sanitary condition, of such design and construction as to provide privacy and to prevent crop contamination and, where practicable, one toilet for each sex.

(b) Handwashing facilities that provide clean water, soap or other suitable cleansing agent, paper towels and a method for disposal of used towels and wash water to avoid crop contamination.

(c) Clean, potable drinking water served in a sanitary manner, which may include but is not limited to containers with spigots and tight fitting lids and disposable cups sufficient in number for each worker.

(2) Every employer required to comply with subsection (1) of this section shall keep conspicuously posted a notice describing the requirements of that subsection and advising where complaints may be filed. The notice must be in the English language and in the language spoken by the majority of the employees.

(3) The director shall promulgate rules to implement subsections (1) and (2) of this section which shall not be less protective than the rules on those subjects that are operative on July 9, 1985. [1985 c.423 §2,3,5]

654.175 [Repealed by 1969 c.534 §2]

WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEES

654.176 Safety committee or safety meeting required. To promote health and safety in places of employment in this state, every public or private employer shall, in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to ORS 654.182, establish and administer a safety committee or hold safety meetings. [1981 c.488 §2; 1990 c.2 §1; 1995 c.83 §1; 2007 c.448 §1]

654.180 [Repealed by 1969 c.534 §2]

654.182 Rules for ORS 654.176; contents. (1) In carrying out ORS 654.176, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall adopt rules that include, but are not limited to, provisions:

(a) Prescribing the membership of the committees to ensure equal numbers of employees, who are volunteers or are elected by their peers, and employer representatives and specifying the frequency of meetings.

(b) Requiring employers to make adequate written records of each meeting and to file and maintain the records subject to inspection by the director.

(c) Requiring employers to compensate employee representatives on safety committees at the regular hourly wage while the employees are engaged in safety committee training or are attending safety committee meetings.

(d) Prescribing the duties and functions of safety committees, which include, but are not limited to:

(A) Establishing procedures for workplace safety inspections by the committee.

(B) Establishing procedures for investigating all safety incidents, accidents, illnesses and deaths.

(C) Evaluating accident and illness prevention programs.

(e) Prescribing guidelines for the training of safety committee members.

(f) Prescribing alternate forms of safety committees and safety meetings to meet the special needs of small employers, agricultural employers and employers with mobile worksites.

(g) Prescribing procedures for health care employers for investigating, collecting and reporting on incidents of workplace violence.

(2) An employer that is a member of a multiemployer group operating under a collective bargaining agreement that contains provisions regulating the formation and operation of a safety committee that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of this section and ORS 654.176 shall be considered to have met the requirements of this section and ORS 654.176.

(3) As used in this section, “health care employer” and “workplace violence” have the meanings given those terms in ORS 654.412. [1981 c.488 §3; 1990 c.2 §2; 1991 c.746 §2; 2007 c.448 §2; 2025 c.535 §1]

654.187 [1981 c.488 §4; repealed by 1991 c.746 §1]

654.189 Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee; members; terms; expenses; duties; meetings. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may appoint a Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee composed of seven members: Three representing employees, three representing employers and one representing the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The committee shall elect its chairperson.

(2) The members of the committee shall be appointed for a term of three years and shall serve at the pleasure of the director. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the director shall appoint a successor. A member is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the director shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(3) The members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to travel expenses pursuant to ORS 292.495.

(4) The duties of the committee shall be determined by the director and shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Recommending to the director:

(A) Occupational Safety and Health Grant application procedures and criteria for grant approval;

(B) Occupational Safety and Health Grant recipients; and

(C) Revocation of grants to recipients failing to comply with grant criteria established by the director pursuant to ORS 654.191.

(b) Receiving and processing Occupational Safety and Health Grant applications.

(5) The committee shall meet at least once every three months at a place, day and hour determined by the committee. The committee shall also meet at other times and places specified by a majority of the members of the committee or the chairperson of the committee. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. [1989 c.857 §3]

654.191 Occupational Safety and Health Grant program; rules. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, in consultation with the Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, shall establish an Occupational Safety and Health Grant program to fund the education and training of employees in safe employment practices and conduct and to promote the development of employer-sponsored health and safety programs.

(2) The director shall adopt rules establishing:

(a) Grant application procedures and criteria for grant approval; and

(b) Procedures for revocation of grants to recipients failing to comply with grant criteria established by the director pursuant to this section.

(3) The director, after reviewing the recommendation of the Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee, shall approve or deny an application for an Occupational Safety and Health Grant. If the director approves a grant under this section, the director shall set the amount of the grant awarded to the grant recipient.

(4) The director shall monitor grant recipients for compliance with grant criteria and procedures established by the director.

(5) The grants awarded under this section shall be funded only from the civil penalties paid into the Consumer and Business Services Fund under ORS 654.086. [1989 c.857 §2]

654.192 Labor organization not liable for injury resulting from absence of safety or health provision.

When an employee incurs an injury compensable under ORS chapter 656, the discussion or furnishing, or failure to discuss or furnish, or failure to enforce any safety or health provision to protect employees against work injuries, in any collective bargaining agreement or negotiations thereon, shall not subject a labor organization representing the injured employee to any civil liability for the injury. [1981 c.488 §5]

654.194 [1985 c.683 §2; repealed by 1999 c.232 §1]

HAZARD COMMUNICATION AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

654.196 Rules on contents of piping systems; posting notice on right to be informed of hazardous substances; withholding of information under certain circumstances. (1) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may by rule require employers to provide information to employees relating to the contents of piping systems. The rules shall include, but need not be limited to requirements for:

- (a) Labeling piping systems to provide notice about hazardous chemicals contained in the system; and
- (b) Labeling a piping system that uses asbestos as a pipe insulation material.

(2) Every employer shall post a sign in the location where notices to employees are normally posted to inform employees that they have a right under this section and ORS 453.317 (6) to information from the employer regarding hazardous substances found in the place of employment.

(3) The sign required under subsection (2) of this section shall include, but need not be limited to, the following information and shall be substantially in the following form:

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

You have a right under state law to information about hazardous substances found in your place of employment. For this information, contact your employer.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or ORS 192.311 to 192.478, an employer may withhold the precise chemical name of a chemical only if the employer can substantiate that:

(a) The chemical name is a trade secret with commercial value that can be protected only by limiting disclosure; and

(b) The commercial value of the product cannot be preserved by withholding the processes, mixture percentages or other aspects of the production of the product instead of its chemical constituents.

(5) A trade secret designation claimed under subsection (4) of this section may be subject to yearly review.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or ORS 192.311 to 192.478, if a treating physician or health professional concludes that the chemical identity of a hazardous chemical used in an employer's place of employment is necessary to prescribe necessary treatment for a patient, the employer may not require the physician or health professional to sign a confidentiality agreement as a condition to the release of the information by the employer, manufacturer or importer. [1985 c.683 §§3,4,5; 1999 c.232 §2; 2005 c.825 §18]

INJURED WORKERS' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

654.200 Scholarship account; use; standards for eligibility. (1) There is established in the Consumer and Business Services Fund the Workers' Memorial Scholarship Account. Only the interest earned on moneys in the account shall be used by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the establishment and administration of a scholarship program to pay education related expenses of the spouses and children of workers who are killed or who have received a permanent total disability award from injury on the job. A maximum of \$1 million to carry out the provisions of this section may be credited to the account from civil penalties recovered pursuant to ORS 654.086.

(2) The director shall consult with the Safe Employment Education and Training Advisory Committee established pursuant to ORS 654.189 in determining the appropriate scholarship standard and in selecting the recipients. [1991 c.395 §2; 1993 c.597 §1; 1999 c.1058 §1; 2017 c.635 §1]

HEALTH AND SANITATION INSPECTIONS

654.202 Issuance of warrants for safety and health inspections. Magistrates authorized to issue search warrants may, upon application of the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, or any public officer, agent or employee of the director acting in the course of official duties, issue an inspection warrant whenever an inspection or investigation of any place of employment is required or authorized by any state or local statute, ordinance or regulation relating to occupational safety or health. The inspection warrant is an order authorizing the safety or health inspection or investigation to be conducted at a designated place of employment. [1971 c.405 §1; 1973 c.833 §25; 1977 c.804 §41]

654.205 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.206 Grounds for issuance of inspection warrants; requirements of affidavit. (1) An inspection warrant shall be issued only upon cause, supported by affidavit, particularly describing the applicant's status in applying for the warrant hereunder, the statute, ordinance or regulation requiring or authorizing the inspection or investigation, the place of employment to be inspected or investigated and the purpose for which the inspection or investigation is to be made including the basis upon which cause exists to inspect. In addition, the affidavit shall contain either a statement that entry has been sought and refused or facts or circumstances reasonably showing that the purposes of the inspection or investigation might be frustrated if entry were sought without an inspection warrant.

(2) Cause shall be deemed to exist if reasonable legislative or administrative standards for conducting a routine, periodic or area inspection are satisfied with respect to the particular place of employment, or there is probable cause to believe that a condition of nonconformity with a safety or health statute, ordinance, regulation, rule, standard or order exists with respect to the particular place of employment, or an investigation is reasonably believed to be necessary in order to determine or verify the cause of an employee's death, injury or illness. [1971 c.405 §2; 1973 c.833 §26]

654.210 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.212 Procedure for issuance of inspection warrant by magistrate. (1) Before issuing an inspection warrant, the magistrate may examine under oath the applicant and any other witness and shall be satisfied of the existence of grounds for granting such application.

(2) If the magistrate is satisfied that cause for the inspection or investigation exists and that the other requirements for granting the application are satisfied, the magistrate shall issue the warrant, particularly describing the name and title of the person or persons authorized to execute the warrant, the place of employment to be entered and the purpose of the inspection or investigation. The warrant shall contain a direction that it be executed on any day of the week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., or where the magistrate has specially determined upon a showing that it cannot be effectively executed between those hours, that it be executed at any additional or other time of the day or night. [1971 c.405 §3; 1973 c.833 §27; 1987 c.158 §126]

654.215 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.216 Execution of inspection warrants. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, in executing an inspection warrant, the person authorized to execute the warrant shall, before entry, make a reasonable effort to present the person's credentials, authority and purpose to an occupant or person in possession of the place of employment designated in the warrant and show the occupant or person in possession of the place of employment the warrant or a copy thereof upon request.

(2) In executing an inspection warrant, the person authorized to execute the warrant need not inform anyone of the person's authority and purpose, as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, but may promptly enter the designated place of employment if it is at the time unoccupied or not in the possession of any person or at the time reasonably believed to be in such condition.

(3) A peace officer may be requested to assist in the execution of the inspection warrant.

(4) An inspection warrant must be executed and returned to the magistrate by whom it was issued within 10 days from its date, unless such magistrate before the expiration of such time, by indorsement thereon, extends the time for five days. After the expiration of the time prescribed by this subsection, the warrant unless executed is void. [1971 c.405 §4; 1973 c.833 §28]

654.220 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.222 [1971 c.405 §5; repealed by 1973 c.833 §15 (654.067 enacted in lieu of 654.047, 654.222 and 654.232)]

654.225 [Amended by 1959 c.516 §1; renumbered 654.047]

654.226 [1971 c.405 §6; repealed by 1973 c.833 §29 (654.241 enacted in lieu of 654.105 and 654.226)]

654.230 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.232 [1971 c.405 §7; repealed by 1973 c.833 §15 (654.067 enacted in lieu of 654.047, 654.222 and 654.232)]

654.235 [Amended by 1959 c.516 §2; renumbered 654.062]

654.240 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.241 [1973 c.833 §30 (enacted in lieu of 654.105 and 654.226); repealed by 1975 c.102 §4]

654.245 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.250 [Repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.251 Assistance to director from other state agencies; inspection of farm labor camps and facilities.

(1) The Bureau of Labor and Industries and any other state agency which is vested under separate statute with the authority to make inspections of places of employment, or to promulgate regulations, rules or standards relating to particular areas of occupational safety and health, shall render such advice and assistance to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services as the director may reasonably request or prescribe in order to carry out the purposes of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. When any state agency completes an inspection of a place of employment, it shall promptly notify the director and the affected employer of any condition that may violate any occupational safety or health law, regulation, rule or standard.

(2) In addition to the inspection authority granted to the director and the representatives and designees of the director by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, the Bureau of Labor and Industries may inspect farm labor camps, fields and facilities prior to occupancy and as reasonably necessary or appropriate thereafter, and shall report any violation of occupational safety or health laws, regulations, rules or standards to the director or the designees of the director. [1973 c.833 §32 (enacted in lieu of 654.100); 1987 c.414 §160]

654.255 [Amended by 1955 c.643 §1; 1957 c.492 §1; 1959 c.516 §3; renumbered 654.092]

654.260 [Amended by 1955 c.643 §2; repealed by 1959 c.516 §6]

654.265 [Amended by 1955 c.644 §1; renumbered 654.093]

654.270 [Renumbered 654.094]

654.275 [Amended by 1959 c.516 §4; renumbered 654.096]

654.285 Admissibility of rules and orders of department in evidence in proceedings under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. Except as provided in ORS 654.078 (7), every regulation, rule, standard, finding, decision and order of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, general or special, made and entered under the provisions of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 and which has become final by operation of law or on appeal, shall be admissible as evidence in any hearing, civil proceeding or criminal prosecution conducted under the provisions of this chapter and shall, in every such hearing, proceeding or prosecution, be conclusively presumed to be reasonable and lawful and to fix a reasonable and proper standard and requirement of safety and health. [Formerly 654.085; 1977 c.804 §42]

654.290 Applicability of Administrative Procedures Act; Administrative Law Judge qualifications. (1) Promulgation by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or by the Workers' Compensation Board of regulations, rules and standards authorized by ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, and any judicial review thereof, shall be as provided in ORS chapter 183.

(2) Notwithstanding ORS 183.315 (1), the issuance of orders pursuant to ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, the conduct of hearings in contested cases and the judicial review thereof shall be as provided in ORS chapter 183, except that:

(a) The chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board or the designee of the chairperson shall employ Administrative Law Judges to hold hearings in contested cases.

(b) The order of an Administrative Law Judge in a contested case shall be deemed to be a final order of the board.

(c) The director shall have the same right to judicial review of the order of an Administrative Law Judge as any person who is adversely affected or aggrieved by such final order.

(d) Affected employees or their authorized representative shall be accorded an opportunity to participate as parties in hearings.

(3) Administrative Law Judges shall be licensees in good standing of the Oregon State Bar and possess such other qualifications as the board may prescribe, and shall be employed in accordance with ORS 656.724. [1973 c.833 §35 (enacted in lieu of 654.040, 654.065, 654.070, 654.075 and 654.080); 1975 c.759 §18; 1977 c.804 §43; 1999 c.876 §1; 2025 c.32 §110]

654.293 Representation of employer by attorney permitted. Neither ORS 9.320 nor any provision in the Oregon Safe Employment Act shall be construed to deny an employer the right to be represented by an attorney or any other authorized representative designated by the employer in any proceedings under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. [1975 c.370 §2]

654.295 Application of Oregon Safe Employment Act. (1) Nothing contained in ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 shall invalidate any existing occupational safety or health regulation, rule, standard or order which is not clearly inconsistent with the purposes and provisions of ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780.

(2) Where any part of a law, regulation, rule, standard or order is found to be clearly inconsistent with ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 and declared to be invalid, it is the intent of the Legislative Assembly that the remaining provisions of such law, regulation, rule, standard or order remain in effect as fully as if the invalid part had not been adopted. [1973 c.833 §36]

EMPLOYER LIABILITY LAW

654.305 Protection and safety of persons in hazardous employment generally. Generally, all owners, contractors or subcontractors and other persons having charge of, or responsibility for, any work involving a risk or danger to the employees or the public shall use every device, care and precaution that is practicable to use for the protection and safety of life and limb, limited only by the necessity for preserving the efficiency of the structure, machine or other apparatus or device, and without regard to the additional cost of suitable material or safety appliance and devices. [Amended by 1997 c.249 §199]

654.310 Places of employment; compliance with applicable orders, rules. All owners, contractors, subcontractors, or persons whatsoever, engaged in the construction, repairing, alteration, removal or painting of any building, bridge, viaduct or other structure, or in the erection or operation of any machinery, or in the manufacture, transmission and use of electricity, or in the manufacture or use of any dangerous appliance or substance, shall see that all places of employment are in compliance with every applicable order, decision, direction, standard, rule or regulation made or prescribed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services pursuant to ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780. [Amended by 1975 c.148 §1; 1977 c.804 §44]

654.315 Persons in charge of work to see that ORS 654.305 to 654.336 are complied with. The owners, contractors, subcontractors, foremen, architects or other persons having charge of the particular work, shall see that the requirements of ORS 654.305 to 654.336 are complied with.

654.320 Who considered agent of owner. The manager, superintendent, foreman or other person in charge or control of all or part of the construction, works or operation shall be held to be the agent of the employer in all suits for damages for death or injury suffered by an employee.

654.325 Who may prosecute damage action for death; damages unlimited. If there is any loss of life by reason of violations of ORS 654.305 to 654.336 by any owner, contractor or subcontractor or any person liable under ORS 654.305 to 654.336, the surviving spouse and children and adopted children of the person so killed and, if none, then the lineal heirs of that person and, if none, then the mother or father, as the case may be, shall have a right of action without any limit as to the amount of damages which may be awarded. If none of the persons entitled to maintain such action reside within the state, the executor or administrator of the deceased person may maintain such action for their respective benefits and in the order above named.

654.330 Fellow servant negligence as defense. In all actions brought to recover from an employer for injuries suffered by an employee, the negligence of a fellow servant shall not be a defense where the injury was caused or contributed to by any of the following causes:

- (1) Any defect in the structure, materials, works, plant or machinery of which the employer or the agent of the employer could have had knowledge by the exercise of ordinary care.
- (2) The neglect of any person engaged as superintendent, manager, foreman or other person in charge or control of the works, plant, machinery or appliances.
- (3) The incompetence or negligence of any person in charge of, or directing the particular work in which the employee was engaged at the time of the injury or death.
- (4) The incompetence or negligence of any person to whose orders the employee was bound to conform and did conform and by reason of having conformed thereto the injury or death resulted.
- (5) The act of any fellow servant done in obedience to the rules, instructions or orders given by the employer or any other person who has authority to direct the doing of said act.

654.335 [Repealed by 2001 c.865 §19]

654.336 Comparative negligence. The provisions of ORS 31.600 to 31.620 apply to an action under ORS 654.305 to 654.336. [2001 c.865 §17]

UTILITY VEHICLES

654.345 Safety standards for utility vehicle rentals. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Contracting agency” has the meaning given that term in ORS 279A.010.

(b)(A) “Rent” means a transfer of, or the act of transferring, in return for consideration and under conditions set forth in a written agreement, the right to possess and use a utility vehicle for a term of less than a year or for a period of time otherwise specified in the agreement.

(B) “Rent” does not include an arrangement under which consideration that a contracting agency pays for use of the utility vehicle results in a transfer of ownership of the utility vehicle to the contracting agency.

(c) “Utility vehicle” means a self-propelled vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 5,000 pounds or more that a driver operates for agricultural, construction, industrial, maritime, mining or forestry uses.

(2) A person that rents a utility vehicle to a contracting agency shall, at the contracting agency’s request, provide:

(a) Records that describe in detail the results of the most recent inspection that the person performed or had performed on the utility vehicle’s traction, structure, power train, control components and related parts and equipment in compliance with applicable rules, regulations or standards of:

(A) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration;

(B) The American National Standards Institute;

(C) The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration;

(D) The United States Department of Transportation;

(E) The Department of Transportation;

(F) The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and

(G) The Department of Consumer and Business Services, with respect to occupational safety and health;

(b) Instructions about how to comply with recommendations from the utility vehicle’s manufacturer for operating and maintaining the utility vehicle on and off the site where the contracting agency will use the utility vehicle and for safe work practices;

(c) Records of all incidents in which use of the utility vehicle during previous rentals resulted in injuries or deaths because of equipment failure; and

(d) A signed affidavit in which the person attests to compliance with applicable safety standards and to performing or having performed regular inspections of the utility vehicle.

(3) If a person delivers to a work site specified under a public contract or other agreement a utility vehicle for usage by an employee of the contracting agency and upon inspection the utility vehicle does not meet applicable standards specified under subsection (2) of this section:

(a) A contracting agency may delay paying any consideration due under an agreement to rent the utility vehicle until the person replaces the utility vehicle with a utility vehicle that meets the applicable standards or performs repairs or maintenance necessary to ensure that the utility vehicle meets the applicable standards; and

(b) A contracting agency may seek an offset of or reimbursement for labor costs that the contracting agency incurs as a result of delays in work that are a consequence of the person’s initial delivery of a utility vehicle that does not meet applicable standards. The contracting agency may not seek reimbursement or an offset for costs that the contracting agency incurs after the contracting agency begins using the utility vehicle.

(4) This section does not apply to a person that receives \$100,000 or more in income from renting utility vehicles to other persons during the calendar year before the year in which the rental of the utility vehicle to the contracting agency occurs. [2021 c.234 §2]

SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

654.400 Use of title of industrial hygienist, occupational health and safety technologist, construction health and safety technician or safety professional; cause of action. (1) No person may purport to be:

(a) A certified industrial hygienist or use the initials CIH unless the person holds a current certification as an industrial hygienist from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

(b) An industrial hygienist in training or use the initials IHIT unless the person holds a current designation as an industrial hygienist in training from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

(c) A certified occupational health and safety technologist or use the initials OHST unless the person holds a current certification as an occupational health and safety technologist from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

(d) A certified construction health and safety technician or use the initials CHST unless the person holds a current certification as a construction health and safety technician from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

(e) A certified safety professional or use the initials CSP unless the person holds a current designation as a certified safety professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

(f) An associate safety professional or use the initials ASP unless the person holds a current designation as an associate safety professional from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

(2) The American Board of Industrial Hygiene, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals or a person lawfully practicing a profession listed in subsection (1) of this section may bring a private cause of action in the appropriate court to recover damages up to \$1,000 against any person who violates subsection (1) of this section. The court may provide such equitable relief as it deems necessary or proper. The court may award reasonable attorney fees to the prevailing party in an action under this section. [1999 c.478 §1]

Note: 654.400 and 654.402 were enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but were not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 654 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

654.402 Activities permitted under other designation, certification or license. ORS 654.400 does not prevent a person legally regulated in this state under any other licensing provisions, rules or regulations from engaging in the activities permitted under that designation, certification or license provided that the person does not use the titles or initials specified in ORS 654.400. [1999 c.478 §2]

Note: See note under 654.400.

654.405 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.410 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

SAFETY OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES

654.412 Definitions for ORS 654.412 to 654.423. As used in ORS 654.412 to 654.423:

(1) “Assault” means intentionally, knowingly or recklessly causing physical injury.

(2) “Energy generating device” means a tool that performs a surgical function using heat, laser, electricity or other form of energy.

(3) “Health care employer” means:

(a) An ambulatory surgical center as defined in ORS 442.015.

(b) A hospital as defined in ORS 441.760, except for the Oregon State Hospital.

(c) A home health agency as defined in ORS 443.014.

(d) A home hospice program.

(4) “Home health care services” means items or services furnished to a patient by an employee of a health care employer in a place of temporary or permanent residence used as the patient’s home.

(5) “Home hospice program” means a coordinated program of home care, available 24 hours a day, that utilizes an interdisciplinary team of personnel trained to provide palliative and supportive services to a patient-family unit experiencing a life threatening disease with a limited prognosis.

(6) “Smoke evacuation system” means equipment that effectively captures or neutralizes surgical smoke before the smoke makes contact with the eyes or the respiratory tract of the occupants of a room.

(7) “Surgical smoke” means the by-product that results from contact with tissue by an energy generating device.

(8) “Workplace violence” includes any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, assault, homicide or any other threatening behavior that occurs in the workplace. [2007 c.397 §2; 2021 c.362 §3; 2025 c.535 §2]

654.413 Required policies regarding surgical smoke. (1) A health care employer shall adopt policies that require the use of a smoke evacuation system during any surgical procedure that is likely to generate surgical

smoke. The hospital or ambulatory surgical center may select any smoke evacuation system that accounts for surgical techniques and procedures vital to patient safety.

(2) The Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall ensure compliance with this section during any on-site inspection. [2021 c.362 §2]

654.414 Duties of health care employer; security and safety assessment; workplace violence prevention and protection program; requirements. (1) A health care employer, in consultation with the employer's workplace safety committee described in ORS 654.176, shall:

(a) Conduct periodic security and safety assessments to identify existing or potential threats of workplace violence;

(b) Develop and implement a workplace violence prevention and protection program for employees based on assessments conducted under paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Provide workplace violence prevention and protection training on an annual basis for employees and any contracted security personnel who work at the premises of the health care employer.

(2) An assessment conducted under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall include, but need not be limited to:

(a) A measure of the frequency of workplace violence, including attempts of workplace violence, that are committed against employees on the premises of a health care employer or in the home of a patient receiving home health care services during the preceding five years or for the years that records are available if fewer than five years of records are available;

(b) An analysis of the root causes and consequences of workplace violence committed against employees, including a plan for addressing the analyzed causes; and

(c) Findings on the extent to which the security considerations described in subsection (3) of this section were implemented to mitigate risks of workplace violence.

(3) A workplace violence prevention and protection program developed and implemented by a health care employer under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall incorporate and implement a workplace violence prevention and response plan. The plan shall:

(a) Be based on an assessment conducted under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(b) Address security considerations related to the following:

(A) Physical attributes of the health care setting;

(B) Staffing plans, including security staffing;

(C) Personnel policies;

(D) First aid and emergency procedures;

(E) Procedures for reporting incidents of workplace violence; and

(F) Education and training for employees.

(c) Include policies and procedures for:

(A) Conducting internal investigations of incidents of workplace violence that occur on the premises of the health care employer.

(B) Identifying employees involved in a workplace violence incident.

(C) Conducting post-incident employee interviews for the purpose of gathering factual details about an incident of workplace violence.

(D) Implementing post-incident response strategies that address the provision of:

(i) First aid or medical care to employees who have been injured in a workplace violence incident; and

(ii) Trauma counseling for employees affected by an incident of workplace violence.

(4)(a) Workplace violence prevention and protection training required under subsection (1)(c) of this section shall address the following topics:

(A) General safety and personal safety procedures, including emergency response guidelines that may be used to notify employees and contracted security personnel who work at the premises of the health care employer of a threat or occurrence of workplace violence;

(B) The meaning of workplace violence;

(C) Escalation cycles for assaultive behaviors and other violent or threatening behaviors;

(D) Predictive factors of workplace violence;

(E) Techniques for obtaining medical history from a patient with assaultive or other threatening or violent behavior;

(F) Verbal and physical techniques to de-escalate and minimize assaultive behaviors and threats of workplace violence;

(G) Strategies for avoiding physical harm and minimizing use of restraints;

(H) Restraint techniques consistent with regulatory requirements;

(I) Self-defense, including:

(i) The amount of physical force that is reasonably necessary to protect the employee or a third person from assault; and

(ii) The use of least restrictive procedures necessary under the circumstances, in accordance with an approved behavior management plan, and any other methods of response approved by the health care employer;

(J) Procedures for documenting and reporting incidents involving assaultive behaviors and incidents of workplace violence;

(K) Programs for post-incident counseling and follow-up;

(L) Resources available to employees for coping with workplace violence;

(M) The health care employer's workplace violence prevention and protection program, including the health care employer's internal investigation process for investigating incidents of workplace violence;

(N) Visual cues and other methods that may be used to identify or notify employees about individuals exhibiting behavioral indicators of workplace violence; and

(O) Responding to active shooter incidents.

(b) A health care employer shall provide workplace violence prevention and protection training to:

(A) A new employee, other than a temporary employee, within 90 days of the employee's initial hiring date.

(B) A temporary employee, within 14 days of the employee's initial hiring date.

(c) A health care employer may use classes, video recordings, brochures, verbal or written training or other training that the employer determines to be appropriate, based on an employee's job duties, under the workplace violence prevention and protection program developed by the employer.

(d) A health care employer shall ensure that a person with the appropriate knowledge and expertise is available to employees to answer questions and clarify any aspects of the workplace violence prevention and protection training through in-person interaction, phone, electronic mail or other reasonable means of communication.

(5) Once a year, a health care employer shall establish, in coordination with the health care employer's workplace safety committee as described in ORS 654.176, a process by which the committee shall review the health care employer's workplace violence prevention and protection program developed and implemented under subsection (1)(b) of this section in order to evaluate the efficacy of the program and consider any changes to the program that are necessary to promote the prevention of workplace violence.

(6)(a) A health care employer shall provide to each employee and, if applicable, to the employee's union representative, a written copy of the workplace violence prevention and response plan described under subsection (3) of this section, including a written statement explaining that an employee who reports an incident of workplace violence has a right to be protected from retaliation.

(b) For newly hired employees, the health care employer shall provide the copy of the plan and the accompanying statement within 30 calendar days from the date of hire. [2007 c.397 §3; 2019 c.350 §4; 2025 c.535 §3]

654.415 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.416 Required records of assaults against employees; contents; summary report; rules. (1) A health care employer shall maintain a record of assaults committed against employees that occur on the premises of the health care employer or in the home of a patient receiving home health care services. The record shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(a) The name and address of the premises on which each assault occurred;

(b) The date, time and specific location where the assault occurred;

(c) The name, job title and department or ward assignment of the employee who was assaulted;

(d) A description of the person who committed the assault as a patient, visitor, employee or other category;

(e) A description of the assaultive behavior as:

(A) An assault with mild soreness, surface abrasions, scratches or small bruises;

(B) An assault with major soreness, cuts or large bruises;

- (C) An assault with severe lacerations, a bone fracture or a head injury; or
 - (D) An assault with loss of limb or death;
 - (f) An identification of the physical injury;
 - (g) A description of any weapon used;
 - (h) The number of employees, including nursing staff as defined in ORS 441.179, in the immediate area of the assault when it occurred; and
 - (i) A description of actions taken by the employees and the health care employer in response to the assault.
- (2) A health care employer shall maintain the record of assaults described in subsection (1) of this section for no fewer than five years following a reported assault.
- (3)(a) Upon the request of an employee or of a workplace safety committee conducting a review pursuant to ORS 654.414, the health care employer shall generate and make available to the requesting party a report summarizing:
- (A) The information in the record required under subsection (1) of this section; and
 - (B) Information regarding work-related injuries and illnesses recorded by the health care employer to comply with applicable federal health and safety recordkeeping requirements.
- (b) A report made available under this subsection:
- (A) May not include any personally identifiable information; and
 - (B) May be used only for the purposes of conducting a review of the workplace violence prevention and protection program under ORS 654.414 or for other purposes that are related to improving the program.
- (4) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall adopt by rule a common recording form for the purposes of this section. [2007 c.397 §4; 2019 c.350 §5; 2025 c.535 §7]

654.417 Duty of Department of Consumer and Business Services to submit consolidated report of assault records and incidents of workplace violence occurring on premises of health care provider; requirements. (1) Not later than December 31 of each year, the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall prepare and submit a consolidated report that includes the assault records that are made available under ORS 654.416 and the following information regarding incidents of workplace violence occurring on the premises of a health care employer:

- (a) The location where each workplace violence incident occurred.
 - (b) The nature of the incident.
 - (c) The nature and severity of any employee injuries stemming from the workplace violence incident.
 - (d) The job titles of any employees who were injured as a result of workplace violence.
 - (e) Any increases or decreases in the number of incidents of workplace violence since the previous study conducted under this section.
- (2) The department shall submit the report, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, including recommendations for legislation, if any, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to business and labor. [2025 c.535 §5]

654.418 Protection of employee of health care employer after assault by patient. If a health care employer directs an employee who has been assaulted by a patient on the premises of the health care employer to provide further treatment to the patient, the employee may request that a second employee accompany the employee when treating the patient. If the health care employer declines the employee's request, the health care employer may not require the employee to treat the patient. [2007 c.397 §5]

654.420 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.421 Refusal to treat certain patients by home health care employee. (1) An employee who provides home health care services may refuse to treat a patient unless accompanied by a second employee if, based on the patient's past behavior or physical or mental condition, the employee believes that the patient may assault the employee.

(2) An employee who provides home health care services may refuse to treat a patient unless the employee is equipped with a communication device that allows the employee to transmit one-way or two-way messages indicating that the employee is being assaulted. [2007 c.397 §6]

654.423 Use of physical force by health care employee in self-defense against assault. (1) A health care employer may not impose sanctions against an employee who used physical force in self-defense against an assault if the health care employer finds that the employee:

(a) Was acting in self-defense in response to the use or imminent use of physical force;
(b) Used an amount of physical force that was reasonably necessary to protect the employee or a third person from assault; and

(c) Used the least restrictive procedures necessary under the circumstances, in accordance with an approved behavior management plan, or other methods of response approved by the health care employer.

(2) As used in this section, “self-defense” means the use of physical force upon another person in self-defense or to defend a third person. [2007 c.397 §7]

654.425 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.430 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.505 [Repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.510 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; 1957 c.201 §1; 1959 c.515 §1; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.515 [Repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.520 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.525 [Amended by 1959 c.657 §1; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.530 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; 1957 c.201 §2; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.532 [1953 c.514 §5; 1957 c.201 §3; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.535 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; 1957 c.201 §4; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.540 [Amended by 1957 c.465 §11; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.545 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.550 [Amended by 1953 c.514 §5; 1957 c.201 §5; repealed by 1961 c.485 §29]

654.605 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.610 [Repealed by 1973 c.833 §48]

654.705 [Repealed by 1967 c.150 §2]

654.710 [Repealed by 1967 c.150 §2]

REPORTS OF ACCIDENTS TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

654.715 Report of accidents to Public Utility Commission; investigation; supplemental reports; rules.

(1) Every public utility and telecommunications utility shall give immediate notice by telegraph, telephone or personally, to the Public Utility Commission whenever any accident occurs within this state upon its premises, or directly or indirectly arises from or is connected with its maintenance or operation, if the accident is attended by loss of human life or limb or serious injury to person or property.

(2) The Public Utility Commission may, if the commission deems the public interest requires it, investigate each such accident forthwith, after giving the public utility or telecommunications utility involved reasonable notice of the time and place of such investigation.

(3) The Public Utility Commission may adopt and amend rules and regulations governing the form and content of reports to the commission to enable the commission to ascertain relevant facts and circumstances attending such accident and the causes thereof. Whenever the original report is insufficient, in the opinion of the commission, the commission may require the public utility or telecommunications utility to file supplemental reports of accidents. [Amended by 1965 c.462 §2; 1987 c.447 §137; 1995 c.733 §48]

654.720 Public inspection or use of reports as evidence prohibited. No report, or any part thereof, required by ORS 654.715, shall be open to public inspection or be used as evidence in any action for damages in any suit or action arising out of any matter mentioned in the report.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS USED IN AGRICULTURE

654.750 Definitions for ORS 654.750 to 654.780. As used in this section and ORS 654.760, 654.770 and 654.780, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) “Employee” means any individual, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, who engages to furnish services for a remuneration, financial or otherwise, subject to the direction and control of an employer.

(2) “Employer” means any person engaged in agriculture who engages one or more employees.

(3) “Hazardous chemical” means any chemical which is a physical or health hazard.

(4) “Health hazard” means a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence, based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles, that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term “health hazard” includes chemicals which are carcinogenic, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system, and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes or mucous membranes.

(5) “Physical hazard” means a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is a combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable or water-reactive compound. [1987 c.832 §2]

654.760 Rules on hazardous chemicals, safety equipment and training. The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall adopt rules that require employers in agriculture to:

(1) Provide adequate information to all of their employees about hazardous chemicals in use in the workplace and to which employees may reasonably be expected to be exposed;

(2) Provide protective safety equipment determined by rule to be adequate; and

(3) Provide adequate training for employees mixing, loading, applying or otherwise handling hazardous chemicals. [1987 c.832 §3; 1999 c.232 §3]

654.770 Basic information available to agricultural employers for employees; content; language. The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall develop and make available basic information for agriculture employers to use in informing and training employees pursuant to ORS 654.780. The information shall include, but need not be limited to, proper personal hygiene, protective safety equipment, general safety rules, proper work clothing, employee rights with respect to this chapter and common symptoms of hazardous chemical exposure. The basic information shall be made available in English, Spanish and any other language determined necessary by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services after consideration of any input received from stakeholders. [1987 c.832 §4; 2005 c.22 §460; 2011 c.352 §1]

654.780 Providing basic information to employees. Agriculture employers shall give all employees a copy of the basic information developed by the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the purpose of informing employees pursuant to ORS 654.770. The information shall be provided in the employee’s own language if the department has produced it in that language. The information shall be provided to persons at the time of hire. [1987 c.832 §5; 2005 c.22 §461]

654.990 [Amended by 1959 c.516 §5; 1961 c.485 §28; 1967 c.150 §1; repealed by 1973 c.833 §37 (654.991 enacted in lieu of 654.990)]

PENALTIES

654.991 Penalties. (1) Subject to ORS 153.022, any employer who willfully violates any provision of, or any regulation, rule, standard or order promulgated pursuant to, ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, and that violation is found to have caused or materially contributed to the death of any employee, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both; except that if the conviction is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person, punishment shall be by a fine of not more than \$20,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both. For the purposes of this subsection, a violation is willful if it is committed knowingly by an employer or supervisory employee who, having a free will or choice, intentionally or knowingly disobeys or recklessly disregards the requirements of a regulation, rule, standard or order. ORS 161.085 shall apply to terms used in this section.

(2) Any person who gives advance notice of any inspection to be conducted under ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780, without authority from the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the designees of the director, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.

(3) Whoever knowingly makes a false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained pursuant to ORS 654.001 to 654.295, 654.412 to 654.423 and 654.750 to 654.780 shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.

(4) Punishment under this section does not affect or lessen the civil liability of the offender. [1973 c.833 §38 (enacted in lieu of 654.990); 1977 c.455 §1; 1999 c.1051 §321]
