

# PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW UPDATE

BY: SUSAN MYERS, OREGON GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION

House Bill **2805 (2023)** gave the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE) the authority to enforce the Public Meetings Law (**ORS 192.610 to 192.690**) and to provide trainings on Public Meetings Law.

**Enforcement** - As previously explained, there are new mandatory prerequisites that must be satisfied before one can file a Public Meetings Law complaint (including executive session complaints) with OGE. One must first file a written grievance with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. Then one must give the public body up to 21 days to respond to the written grievance. Only after these prerequisites are satisfied can one file the complaint with OGE.

House Bill 2805 also added a new requirement. A public body, upon receipt of a written grievance, must send OGE a copy of the written grievance, along with their response. These documents should be sent to OGE via email to this address: **[pbgr@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:pbgr@ogec.oregon.gov)**

More information about OGE's Public Meetings Law enforcement process can be found on OGE's website: **<https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Public-Meetings-Law/Pages/default.aspx>**

**Training** - House Bill 2805 added a new mandatory training requirement for every member of a governing body of a public body with total expenditures of \$1 million or more per fiscal year. These governing body members must receive Public Meetings Law training at least once during their term of office.

Beginning in January 2024, OGE's trainers will begin providing Public Meetings Law trainings and will be coordinating with agencies, other groups, and associations to ensure the availability of Public Meetings Law trainings throughout the state. If you would like to receive updates on OGE's Public Meetings Law Trainings, you can sign up for OGE's Public Meetings Law Trainings email list on OGE's website: **<https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Public-Meetings-Law/Pages/Training-Review.aspx>**

OGE will also be reviewing and approving the Public Meetings Law trainings offered by other agencies, groups, and organizations, including the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO). OGE will begin reviewing and approving the training curriculum in January 2024. If you would like more information about this process, please contact Stephanie Heffner, OGE's Curriculum & Training Coordinator: **[stephanie.heffner@ogec.oregon.gov](mailto:stephanie.heffner@ogec.oregon.gov)**

