

SPECIAL DISTRICTS DESCRIPTIONS

PORT DISTRICT: ORS Chapter 777

Assist and encourage world trade opportunities. Develop and expand new overseas markets for commodities exported from the ports, which has great potential for diversifying and improving the economic base of the state. Provide the development, improvement and maintenance of port facilities, public marinas, bays, harbors and channels of the Columbia River and other Oregon rivers and streams, as well as provide research or technical assistance for the planning, promotion or implementations of commercial, industrial or economic development projects.

TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT: ORS Chapter 267

Provide mass transportation for passengers, including park-and-ride stations, transfer stations, parking lots, malls, and skyways. Impose registration fees on vehicles, and to the extent that it is economically and technologically possible, enforce all motor vehicles purchased or leased be capable of using alternative fuel.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT: ORS Chapter 341

Community colleges are intended to fill the institutional gap in education by offering broad, comprehensive programs in academics as well as professional technical subjects. They are primarily designed to provide associate or certificate degree programs in order to provide students with the ability to enter the workforce immediately and serve to determine future educational needs for other students. They can provide means for continuation of academic education, professional technical training or the attainment of entirely new skills as demands for old skills and old occupations are supplanted by new technologies. They may also provide the means to coordinate courses and programs with high schools to accommodate successful transition to college degree programs.

HEALTH DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 440

To provide clinical related diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitative services on an inpatient or outpatient basis; provide outreach programs in health care education, health care research and patient care; serve as a resource for health care providers in the district; and promote the physical and mental health and well-being of district residents.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 332, 335

To fulfill the criteria, mission, and goals of the State of Oregon in the provision of kindergarten through grade 12 textbooks and other instructional materials and courses of study to the pupils that reside within the district, through the development and acquisition of resources and buildings, administrators, teachers and staff, and other materials needed.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 478

To provide or contract for fire suppression services and facilities. Those that do not contract for service must maintain fire equipment and expand the water supply system through the addition of cisterns and draft sites. Some districts provide rescue services as well.

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 264

Formed for the purpose of supplying inhabitants of the district with water for domestic purposes, and, in connection therewith, may supply, furnish and sell for any use any surplus water over and above the domestic needs of its inhabitants to persons living outside the district, or to other water districts, school districts, or other local governments.

WATER CONTROL DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 553

Created for the purpose of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving, operating and maintaining drainage, irrigation, and flood and surface water control works in order to prevent damage and destruction of life and property by floods, to improve the agricultural and other uses of lands, and to improve the public health, welfare and safety. May also acquire, purchase, construct, improve, operate and maintain works and facilities for the secondary purposes of domestic, municipal and industrial water, recreation, wildlife, fish life and water quality enhancement. However, a water control district may not be created solely for one or more of the purposes provided by this subsection.

SANITARY DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 450

Formed for the purpose of providing sanitation facilities and services.

PARK & RECREATION DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 266

A community may form a municipal corporation to provide park and recreation facilities for the inhabitants.

RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DISTRICTS: ORS Chapter 451

Formed to serve unincorporated areas of the county for the protection of health, safety and general welfare.