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A February Payment Helps Avoid Fee Increases

New registration fees not in effect until Feb. 27, Corporation Division says

SALEM -- Oregon businesses can avoid paying increased state registration fees by completing any upcoming filings by Feb. 26, Corporation Division Director Peter Threlkel said.

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature approved a bump in fees, although implementation was delayed pending the vote on Measure 67. Oregon voters approved the referendum in January and that cleared the way for the fee increase.

"We want to get the word out that anyone starting a business or renewing a registration can avoid the increase by filing before the end of February," Threlkel said. "The new fees go into effect on Feb. 27, so this is a way for some Oregon businesses to save a little money."

Fees for Oregon's smallest businesses and nonprofits won't go up at all, Threlkel said. Here's a look at a few of the fees:

- Assumed business names, trademarks, and all nonprofits will remain at \$50.
- Articles of formation, supplements, and annual reports will increase to \$100 for an Oregon business entity.
- Fees will rise to \$275 for an out-of-state business entity.
- All UCC filings will increase to \$15, the first increase since 1993, and notary commission applications will be \$40, the first increase since 1989.

In the 2009-11 biennium, the increases are expected to generate an additional \$20 million for schools, public health, and safety. By the 2011-13 biennium, that figure should increase to \$30 million.

The Corporation Division registers businesses, files public notices of debt, administers notary public services and provides public access to records that let the public know who operates Oregon companies.

The division is also making more services available online with a goal of creating one web visit for all state and local business permits, which will reduce red tape for Oregon companies.

The division returns money each year to the state, sending \$22.5 million to the general fund in the 2007-09 biennium.

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