

Submitter: John Gear
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB15

As an attorney who routinely handles estate administration matters, I suggest that the Legislature would do itself and all Oregonians a service if it stopped trying to specify dollar limits for things like access to the streamlined "simple estate" procedure, given that inflation inevitably eats away at any dollar figure specified in statute.

In 2024, the median Oregon home sale value approached \$500,000 -- meaning half the sales were for less than \$500,000.

I suggest that to avoid this needless and wasteful process of chasing inflation through time and revising the statutory limits again and again, the legislature simply specify that the simple estate process is available for all estates where the real property assets are less than the median value for the prior year, and charge the state Department of Revenue with setting and publishing the value each year when the prior year data becomes available.

Similarly, the personal property limits should be set at a nominal figure but the figure should be indexed to the consumer price inflation index, again with the Department of Revenue charged with figuring and publishing the new figure each year.

The result is that, all else being equal, about the same share of Oregon estates will be able to use the simple estate procedure through time and the Legislature can spend its time on the many much more critical matters.