

## **ARTICLE IV; LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT**

<http://bluebook.state.or.us/state/constitution/constitution04.htm>

**(This version of this text is taken from  
a document written by “Code Commissioner William Paine Lord”,  
& published in 1910, by “William S. Duniway, State Printer”, in Salem Oregon;  
& entitled: “Lord's Oregon Laws”; with sub-header:  
“All the Laws of a General Nature in Force in the State of Oregon”.)  
(More notes below.)**

### **Article 4, Section 23.**

#### **What local and special laws prohibited.**

**The legislative assembly shall not pass special or local laws  
in any of the following enumerated cases, that is to say:**

- Regulating the jurisdiction and duties of justices of the peace,  
and of constables;**
- For the punishment of crimes, and misdemeanors;**
- Regulating the practice in courts of justice;**
- Providing for changing the venue in civil, and criminal cases;**
- Granting divorces;**
- Changing the names of persons;**
- For laying, opening, and working on highways,  
and for the election, or appointment of supervisors;**
- Vacating roads, town plats, streets, alleys, and public squares;**
- Summoning and impaneling grand, and petit jurors;**
- For the assessment and collection of taxes  
for state, county, township, or road purposes;**
- Providing for supporting common schools,  
and for the preservation of school funds;**
- In relation to interest on money;**
- Providing for opening, and conducting the elections of state,  
county, and township officers, and designating the places of voting;**
- Providing for the sale of real estate, belonging to minors, or other  
persons laboring under legal disabilities, by executors,  
administrators, guardians, or trustees.**

~~~~~  
Note 1:

The header in the Modernly Distributed Version of this text reads:

“Certain Special and Local Laws Prohibited”.

In the place of that word “Certain”, this original version uses the word “What”.

The writers of the modern version seem to have purposefully Changed this Wording so-as-to cause a “Fundamental Shift” in the Focus of what was Originally Intended in this Section.

The Focus now Moves Away From the Clearly Evidenced wording here, which shows that All of the below listed “Cases” were “Prohibited”.

The New Version implicitly Allows for “Certain” “Special or Local Laws”, in these listed cases, while Prohibiting others.

The New Version Fails to Define what “Special or Local Laws” actually Means, a problem clearly Intended to be Completely Removed by the former Original Wording.

~~~~

Note 2:

In the Modern Official Version of this Section 23, at two precise points, there has been “Two Commas” Inserted (,,), before the single comma above; all so that the modernly altered text now reads as:

“The Legislative Assembly, shall not pass special or local laws, in any of the following enumerated cases, that is to say:”.

Again; what Was a straight-forward & Clear Prohibition against Every Legislative Action touching up-on the below listed “Cases”, is Now Wide-Open to Usurpation of jurisdiction by the Civil/Municipal Malum-Prohibitum Authorities.

An 1882 Official Version of Oregon's Constitution; entitled “Journal of the Constitutional Convention”, & as published by “W.H. Byras, State Printer”, reads precisely the Same as Lord's version here, with just the single comma.

Original Copies of both of these un-adulterated documents are available.