

counted as gross receipts attributed to Oregon and included in the numerator of the sales-factor fraction.

II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The dispute between the parties in this court narrowly focuses on the question of what is included in the “gross receipts from broadcasting” to which the Oregon audience ratio is applied. Taxpayer does not dispute that it engages in “broadcasting” or that its income is apportioned to Oregon—at least in part—using the special “sales factor” formula specified in ORS 314.684 for “interstate broadcasters.”⁵ However, taxpayer contends that most of its receipts for the disputed tax years arose from activity that does not qualify as “broadcasting,” a term defined to mean “the activity of transmitting any one-way electronic signal.” ORS 314.680(1). According to taxpayer, only receipts from its activity that qualifies as “broadcasting” should have been attributed to Oregon under the audience-ratio formula of ORS 314.684.

The department counters, however, that the audience-ratio formula of ORS 314.684 is used to determine the Oregon portion of taxpayer’s “gross receipts from broadcasting” and that the term is specifically defined to mean “all gross receipts of an interstate broadcaster from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business,” with a few unrelated exceptions, ORS 314.680(2). The department understands that definition of “gross receipts from broadcasting” to include a broader category of receipts than simply receipts from “broadcasting” activity and, thus, maintains that it correctly counted taxpayer’s receipts from both “broadcasting” and other business activities in the category of “gross receipts from broadcasting” that are attributable to Oregon under the audience-ratio formula specified in ORS 314.684.

That issue of statutory construction was a focus of motions for partial summary judgment that both parties filed in the Tax Court. Taxpayer asked the court to determine

⁵ The Tax Court concluded that taxpayer meets the definition of an “interstate broadcaster” because “it engages in some” activity that is “broadcasting.” 22 OTR at 299. Taxpayer does not challenge that determination on appeal.

“(2) The denominator of the sales factor shall include the total gross receipts derived by the interstate broadcaster from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business, except receipts excluded under rules of the Department of Revenue.

“(3) The numerator of the sales factor shall include all gross receipts attributable to this state, with gross receipts from broadcasting to be included as specified in subsection (4) of this section.

“(4) Gross receipts from broadcasting of an interstate broadcaster which engages in income-producing activity in this state shall be included in the numerator of the sales factor in the ratio that the interstate broadcaster’s audience or subscribers located in this state bears to its total audience and subscribers located both within and without this state.”

ORS 314.684. For purposes of that formula, the legislature has defined what it means by “gross receipts from broadcasting,” the phrase on which the dispute turns:

“‘Gross receipts from broadcasting’ means all gross receipts of an interstate broadcaster from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business except receipts from sales of real or tangible personal property.”

ORS 314.680(2).⁶

The text of that statutory definition does not describe “gross receipts from broadcasting” as limited to receipts from activity consisting of “broadcasting.” Rather, the phrasing—both the definition and its exceptions—broadly incorporates “all gross receipts of an interstate broadcaster,” subject to only two limits: (1) the receipts must be “from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business” and (2) the receipts must not be from the sale of real property or tangible personal property. ORS 314.680(2) (emphasis added).

Nevertheless, taxpayer emphasizes that “broadcasting” is also a defined term and, moreover, is defined

⁶ The definitions in ORS 314.680 apply to the terms “[a]s used in ORS 314.680 to 314.690, unless the context requires otherwise.” ORS 314.680.

narrowly to mean “the activity of transmitting any one-way electronic signal by radio waves, microwaves, wires, coaxial cables, wave guides or other conduits of communications.” ORS 314.680(1). In other words, taxpayer highlights what may be an incongruity: if the Tax Court’s construction of the statute is correct, then the legislature has defined “gross receipts from broadcasting” as including more than just gross receipts from “broadcasting.” However, that seeming incongruity is not, itself, a reason to disregard the legislature’s definition of “gross receipts from broadcasting” if it is the result that the legislature intended. As we have emphasized, “[w]hen the legislature provides a definition of a statutory term, we of course use that definition.” *Comcast Corp. v. Dept. of Rev.*, 356 Or 282, 295, 337 P3d 768 (2014).

Taxpayer also emphasizes, however, that “gross receipts from broadcasting” is limited to those receipts “from transactions and activities in the regular course of [the interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business” and that an “interstate broadcaster” is a “taxpayer that engages in the for-profit *business* of broadcasting.” ORS 314.680(2), (3). Thus, taxpayer argues, “transactions and activities in the regular course of [an interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business” should mean only “transactions and activities” that consist of the business of “broadcasting.” According to taxpayer, only those receipts from transmitting a one-way electronic signal are properly considered “gross receipts from broadcasting.” Taxpayer’s narrow construction of the term “gross receipts from broadcasting” is textually plausible, but several contextual cues persuade us that the legislature did not intend to limit the term to receipts from the taxpayer’s “transactions and activities” that consist of “transmitting any one-way electronic signal” if the taxpayer engages in other activities in the regular course of its trade or business.

The first contextual cue is that the sales factor described in ORS 314.684 is directed to a class of taxpayers, rather than to a class of income-generating activity. The first paragraph of that statute provides that “[t]he sales factor for an interstate broadcaster shall be determined as provided in this section,” ORS 314.684(1), and an “interstate broadcaster” is “a taxpayer that engages in the for-profit business of broadcasting.” ORS 314.680(3). The statutes do not

provide that “the sales factor for *income derived from broadcasting* shall be determined” under ORS 314.684 or that a taxpayer is an “interstate broadcaster *** *to the extent it engages in the for-profit business of broadcasting.*” Nor does ORS 314.684 direct interstate broadcasters to calculate a secondary sales factor pursuant to the general formula of ORS 314.665. Yet taxpayer’s proposed construction of the statutes would require this court to insert similar provisions, contrary to the legislature’s directive that, in construing statutes, courts are to “ascertain and declare what is, in terms or in substance, contained therein, not to insert what has been omitted, or to omit what has been inserted.” See ORS 174.010.

Another contextual cue is that the legislature defined “gross receipts from broadcasting” in a way that suggests the legislature understood the term to include more than just receipts from the activity of transmitting a one-way signal. The definition of “gross receipts from broadcasting” expressly excludes “receipts from sales of real or tangible personal property.” ORS 314.680(2). Receipts from the activity of selling property, however, are not receipts from the activity of transmitting a one-way signal. If taxpayer were correct that “gross receipts from broadcasting” included only receipts from the activity of transmitting a one-way electronic signal, then it would have been unnecessary for the legislature to expressly exclude receipts from the selling of property.

In general, we “assume that the legislature did not intend any portion of its enactments to be meaningless surplusage.” *State v. Clemente-Perez*, 357 Or 745, 755, 359 P3d 232 (2015). Indeed, the legislature has directed that, where a statute contains “several provisions or particulars,” courts should construe the statute in a way that “will give effect to all.” ORS 174.010. That taxpayer’s construction of ORS 314.680(3) would render redundant the provision that excludes property sales from the definition of “gross receipts from broadcasting” is another indication that the legislature intended the category “gross receipts from broadcasting” to have a reach broad enough to include more than just receipts from the activity of “broadcasting.”

A final contextual challenge for taxpayer’s construction of “transactions and activities in the regular course of [the interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business” arises because the legislature used the same phrase to describe the contents of the denominator of the sales factor described in ORS 314.684. As explained above, a taxpayer’s sales factor is a fraction, and, for interstate broadcasters, ORS 314.684(2) specifies, “[t]he denominator of the sales factor shall include the total gross receipts derived by the interstate broadcaster *from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business*” (emphasis added)—the same phrase that the legislature used in defining “gross receipts from broadcasting. (Emphasis added.) We ordinarily presume that the legislature intended words enacted as part of the same statute to have the same meaning throughout that statute. See *Village at Main Street, Phase II v. Dept. of Rev.*, 356 Or 164, 175, 339 P3d 428 (2014) (“[T]he general assumption of consistency counsels us to assume that the legislature intended the same word to have the same meaning throughout related statutes unless something in the text or context of the statute suggests a contrary intention.”). No text or context here provides a reason to depart from that general rule of construction, so we presume that the legislature intended the phrase “transactions and activities in the regular course of [the interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business” to have the same meaning when used in ORS 314.684 to describe the denominator as when used in ORS 314.680 as part of the definition of “gross receipts from broadcasting.”

If the phrase “transactions and activities in the regular course of [the interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business” has the narrow meaning proposed by taxpayer, however, then there would be a significant misalignment between the receipts counted in the prescribed denominator of the sales-factor fraction and the receipts counted in the prescribed numerator—because the numerator broadly includes “all gross receipts attributable to this state,” ORS 314.684(3). The resulting sales factor could alter an interstate broadcaster’s tax-apportionment formula in a way that taxpayer undoubtedly would not wish and that the legislature is unlikely to have intended.

The more receipts a taxpayer earns from business activity other than “broadcasting” activity, *i.e.*, other than from Category A activity, the more top-heavy the sales factor would become, and the greater the portion of the taxpayer’s income that would be taxed by Oregon.

Although ORS 314.684(2) does not expressly preclude adding other gross receipts to the denominator, the text directs only that the denominator includes receipts “from transactions and activities in the regular course of [the interstate broadcaster’s] trade or business.” If, as taxpayer contends, the legislature intended “transactions and activities in the regular course of [a broadcaster’s] trade or business” to include only transactions and activities consisting of “broadcasting,” then the failure to specify that receipts from other business activity should also be included in the denominator of the ORS 314.684 sales factor would be a significant omission. More plausibly, it is not an omission at all; more plausibly, the legislature saw no need to specify that the denominator of the interstate broadcaster sales factor includes receipts from business activity other than “broadcasting” because the legislature understood that the category of gross receipts “from transactions and activities in the regular course of [a broadcaster’s] trade or business” was broad enough to already include receipts from activity other than “broadcasting.”

B. *Legislative History*

Nothing in the legislative history of ORS 314.680 to 314.684 discloses a legislative intent to apportion the receipts of an interstate broadcaster in a manner different from that suggested by the text and context of those statutes. The special sales-factor formula for interstate broadcasters became law in 1989, when the legislature adopted House Bill (HB) 2226. Or Laws 1989, ch 792. Taxpayer has cited legislative history indicating that the 1989 legislature intended to change the method by which an interstate broadcaster’s receipts would be attributed to Oregon to a formula based on the broadcaster’s Oregon-audience ratio. See Tape Recording, Senate Committee on Revenue and School Finance, HB 2226, June 12, 1989, Tape 189, Side A (statement of James N. Gardner, Oregon Association

IV. CONCLUSION

The Tax Court correctly concluded that, in calculating the “sales factor” by which an interstate broadcaster’s receipts are attributed to Oregon, “all gross receipts of [the broadcaster] from transactions and activities in the regular course of its trade or business”—not solely receipts from “broadcasting” activities—are “included in the numerator of the sales factor in the ratio” that the broadcaster’s Oregon audience bears to its total audience. ORS 314.680(2); ORS 314.684(4). The only exception is the broadcaster’s receipts from the sales of real property or tangible personal property, which are included in the numerator if attributable to Oregon but are not governed by the audience-ratio formula. *See* ORS 314.680(2).

The limited judgment of the Tax Court is affirmed.

of music and online video services, Internet service providers, alarm companies, financial institutions and more” are apportioned under the “interstate broadcaster” formula of ORS 314.684. But taxpayer does not challenge, here, the Tax Court’s conclusion about when a business is an “interstate broadcaster” subject to ORS 314.684, so the meaning of that term is beyond the scope of this appeal.