

At the Legislature

Hurdles still face vote-18

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles evaluating the performance of the 1971 Oregon legislature.

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Of the Emerald

Rights for 18-21 year olds have been a key issue facing the legislature this session. Almost without effort, house bills 1149 and 1150 were signed into law permitting ballot preparation for national elections and initial registration procedures for newly-enfranchised voters.

Of primary concern however, is HJR 47 which encountered stiff hurdles earlier this month in the House, but managed to survive and is currently sitting in the Senate's committee on Elections and Reapportionment.

The resolution would ratify the 18-year-old vote amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Considerable opposition on the bill was predicted as Oregon was one of three original states to take the issue to the Supreme Court.

HB 1162 would lower the age of majority from 21 to 18 providing HJR 47 is passed. It is currently on the table in the House State and Federal Affairs subcommittee B on Governmental Reorganization.

SB 437 would allow persons 18 or over to sell liquor and was passed by the Senate 23-2 in late March. It is currently being considered by the House State and Federal Affairs Committee.

SB 581 is sitting in the Senate committee on Judiciary. If passed, it would allow 18 year olds to buy alcoholic beverages.

With the passage of SB 582, 18-21 year olds could enter into legally-binding contracts. Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee, the bill exempts nonconsenting parents from liability under such contracts.

SB 583 would allow 18-21 year olds to serve on juries and is likewise stalled in the Senate Judiciary committee. Senate bills 581, 582, and 583 have not been tabled but are most likely pending affirmative action on HJR 47.

The so-called "men's lib" bill, (SB 584) has received more consideration than the other three measures. It would allow males between 18 and 21 to marry without parental consent.

SB 584 passed the Senate in late April and is currently under consideration by the House State and Federal Affairs Committee.

Awaiting the Governor's signature is HB 1802 which offers help to first offenders, including those convicted of drug abuse.

Adopted by the Senate Tuesday, the measure provides that a defendant convicted of a minor (Class C) felony or misdemeanor and has fulfilled the conditions of his sentence can have his court record cleared if he does not violate the law for three years.

A May 13 hearing on HB 1991 which seeks to limit the performance of abortion only to cases where the mother's life is endangered or the pregnancy results from felonious intercourse, attracted the largest crowd of any hearing held during the session.

Over 300 persons attended HB 1991's hearing before the House Health, Education and Welfare subcommittee B on Health. The measure is sponsored by Rep. Grace Peck (D-Multnomah) and seeks to "tighten up" Oregon's current liberalized abortion law.

Oregon's National Guard received a \$2.3 million appropriation from the Senate Monday as the upper house approved 23-7 the state's 1971-73 military budget.

Considered to be its last major hurdle, the military budget's passage probably means the end of HB 1994 which sought to reduce the size of the Guard.

Students may get more voice on incidental fee allocations

The State Board of Higher Education may soon give students a larger voice in incidental fee matters, if it approves a set of guidelines to regulate those fees on an individual campus basis.

Such guidelines, submitted by the University, were tentatively approved by the board's finance committee during a half-day meeting on the Portland State University campus Tuesday.

University President Robert Clark, who attended the meeting, said the new guidelines should give students a maximum voice in determining how incidental fees are spent.

The key points of the University guidelines, developed by

ASUO and University administration officials, include:

- Division of budget activities into "major" and "minor" activities. Major activities include athletics, ASUO programs and the EMU. Minor activities are everything else, including individual ASUO programs.

- Designation of the ASUO Student Senate as the key decision-making body in incidental fee budgeting.

- Requiring "satisfaction of existing contractual obligations," and "orderly withdrawal" of support in cases where fee support for major budget activities is to be "substantially" changed. Also, in

cases of withdrawal of support, alternate sources of funding must be obtained, unless the University president "feels the circumstances" don't require it.

- A limitation of 10 per cent on decreasing fee support in any one year for major budget activities only and approval of the University president for "ensuing consecutive reductions in the same activity." Voluntary reductions beyond the 10 per cent limit would be permitted, however. The limit could also be exceeded by a simple majority in a referendum vote of the student body where at least one-third of the students cast ballots.

Maintaining an annual contingency fund to meet emergencies.

Final review by the University president, or his representative, of the completed incidental fee budget for major activities, as approved by the student senate. The president will review the budget proposal "to insure compliance with the guidelines and statutory requirements, and for compliance in respect to the minor and traditionally funded areas."

The 10 per cent limitation and other protections of existing funding written into the guidelines were included to prevent threatened drastic cutbacks in programs such as athletics, which have fallen into disfavor with some groups of students in recent years.

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