

Salem discussions hover over wastes . . .

By MIKE McLAIN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — The new director of the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), William Young, and several members of his staff, came under fire Tuesday from members of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee for what one member termed "sloppy legislation" coming from the DEQ.

The legislation, SB-238, would authorize the DEQ to require permits and bonds for operators of motor vehicles who collect, transport and dispose of "environmentally hazardous wastes."

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Sen. Victor Atiyeh, R-Portland, rapped Young and his staff for failure to further define what they intended. "One thing I'm committed to this session is to avoid this kind of thing," Atiyeh told Young. "I consider this sloppy legislation. I want better definitions . . . I want better parameters. I don't want to

leave that door open."

Earnest Schmidt, administrator in the Solid Waste Division of the DEQ, said, "You're correct, we do have some work to do on this," and he said the department is currently going through a process to determine what can be included. He said the definition is continually subject to change.

But Young defended the DEQ's decision not to include a more precise definition in specific legislation. "It may be more appropriate," he explained, "to leave further definition up to the agency (DEQ)." He warned the committee that if after the current session it was determined that other mat-

erial should be added to the list of hazardous wastes, "we would have to let it go for two more years without regulation" until the next legislative session.

Young also explained the DEQ was working under a time limit imposed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to come up with a permit and bonding requirement or EPA would step in and do it for them.

Atiyeh maintained that it was improperly written even in light of Young's explanation. "You must put the kind of language that explains your intent into the bill," he said. "You must understand that by better parameters, I mean you

must specify that 'hazardous wastes' mean what you (DEQ) say it is. I don't necessarily want specifics." Even though the bill created some controversy, it can be amended to do away with the committee's objection before it goes to the Senate floor for a vote.

The hearing also generated controversy when the committee considered a measure that would modify the definition of a disposal site for environmentally hazardous wastes to a site where the wastes would be stored "for more than 12 months." Under current statutes, Arlington, Ore., is the only legal disposal site for the wastes.

Young said an example of the problem necessitating this bill is that presently, when a farmer empties a drum of pesticides, he can not legally put it down anywhere except in Arlington. Young said the change in definition would enable the DEQ to authorize temporary collecting sites for wastes that would then be carried to Arlington. He noted two such sites presently authorized by the DEQ in Portland and Springfield which are owned by a trucking company that collects then ships the wastes as an example.

Sen. Ted Hallock, D-Portland, then asked, "Are you satisfied that the DEQ is not presently violating statute law" by authorizing those two sites?

"No, we're not," replied Schmidt. "That's why we're here."

. . . as well as day care eligibility

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

In this new age where one-tenth of the University student population goes home to diapers and Sesame Street, state-subsidized day care is becoming an issue.

And the same support is building on other state campuses, says Oregon Student Lobby coordinator Kirby Garrett, because more than half of the student parents at Oregon's community colleges and four-year colleges and universities are ineligible for state-subsidized day care.

"The eligibility rules are really stupid," says Garrett. "You're eligible if you're completing a two-year program. So if you attend a four-year institution, you're only eligible during your junior and senior years. And if you go to a community college, you're only eligible if you're in a training program that's vocationally oriented, which less than half the students are in. Part-time students aren't eligible at all. The state should have some obligation to students who are trying to be upwardly mobile."

Currently about 9,000 of the 60,000 students attending four-year state institutions have children (15 per cent), according to a "rough" estimate from the State Board of Higher Education. And of the 200,000 community college students in the state, about 80,000 (40 per cent) are parents.

The board says it hasn't determined how many of the state's student parents have low incomes. But Wanda Venturacci, director of the Child Care and Development Center (CCDC), estimates that 95 per cent of the Center's 80 parents are earning little or no income. But only 40 per cent of the CCDC parents receive subsidized day care.

"It's unfair," said Venturacci, "because low income parents who aren't students can be subsidized through the Community Coordinated Childcare Council or the Children's Service Division. But unless you're in a two-year training program, there's no state subsidy vehicle for the student."

Venturacci says CCDC day care costs run \$220 per month for an infant and \$175 per month for a

three to six-year-old child. The state subsidy is awarded on a sliding scale, according to the parent's income. Currently a parent with one child making over \$452 per month is ineligible for any subsidy. The cut-off point for a two-parent, one-child family is \$1,109.

"Day care is a major expense for many student families," said Bob Naegler, a student parent and an ASUO staffer. "Quality care during the pre-school years is especially important to long-term development. Some parents who want to go to school don't because they don't want their kids to get substandard day care."

But hope is on the horizon.

At the request of the Oregon Student Lobby and The Community Colleges of Oregon Student Association, Sen. Mary Roberts, D-Portland, is introducing a bill this week appropriating \$3.75 million for state-subsidized day care for low-income students. Parents with children under 12 years would be eligible if they have resided in Oregon for six months,

can't afford day care costs, and are making "satisfactory progress" towards completion of an educational program.

The State Scholarship Commission would determine what student parents meet the eligibility requirements, and would authorize the day care payments. The payments would reflect needed hours of day care and the student's income.

The bill will probably be referred to a committee this week, and is being cosponsored by Rep. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, Rep. Mary Burrows, R-Eugene, and Rep. Gretchen Kafoury, D-Portland.

Staff outlines county interests

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

Bills enacted by the Oregon state Legislature often have direct results on the state's counties, and Lane County is no exception.

This year, as in past years, the county will have a legislative program which will involve monitoring bills and lobbying for county interests in Salem.

According to Ned Briner, policy and program planner for the county, the county staff has drawn up a list of 18 priorities in which the county will be interested.

Briner says state fiscal support of local court systems, state aid to local hospitals and health programs, funding for libraries, and changing the county fiscal year to coincide with the federal fiscal year will all be of interest to the county. He also says the proposal

to provide state revenue sharing funds for cities and counties will be a county concern.

The county has appointed a legislative liaison, Robin Paolillo, who will live in Salem and keep abreast of committee meetings and pending bills. Briner says she will report to him, and he will sift the information for items of interest to the county commissioners.

The commissioners, he says, will discuss the legislative issues and conduct public hearings in their regular meetings on Wednesdays. The commissioners will decide if a stance on an issue should be taken, and whether or not to conduct a lobbying effort to

let their views be known to the legislators.

In a Tuesday meeting, the commissioners brought several other proposals to the list of priorities. Jerry Rust voiced an interest in a forest bill allowing small landowners to get involved in logging. Archie Weinstein, new board chair, suggested support for senior citizens, particularly in the area of tax relief.

The commissioners also declined a staff recommendation to support a proposal for the fluoridation of water supply systems in the state. They did, however, support a proposal to allow local areas the right to determine the fluoride question on local levels.

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