

Land use statutes still alive in Legislature

By MIKE McLAIN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Next to the Nuclear Safeguards Act, the most emotional measure in November's election was Ballot Measure 10, which called for the repeal of land-use planning statutes.

Although the measure went down to defeat, the issue is alive and well in the 59th Legislature.

Last week the Senate Energy and Environment Committee heard testimony from individuals on six bills which would alter state land-use planning statutes.

The six measures differ widely in thrust, but the testimony presented last week by several citizens was a unanimous request to leave the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), and its enabling statutes, alone.

Cannon Beach realtor Janet Rekate embodied the testimony last week with her comments "the people are quite satisfied with LCDC. They voted Ballot Measure 10 down by a 2-1 margin."

She quipped, "You're suggesting the little girl — Elsie Deecy — go to the hospital when she may not be sick."

But legislators expect strong support for land-use planning statute alteration when organizations present testimony Tuesday.

The bills before the committee are:

- SB-286, requested by the interim joint legislative committee on land-use, would define "goals and guidelines" as used in existing statutes. It would also set up a method by which local plans are evaluated for compliance, and it would create local advisory committees to assist local planning commissions. Sen. Steve Kafoury, D-Portland, a member of the sponsoring committee, said the bill addresses major concerns of LCDC critics without "gutting" the present law.

- SB-410, the product of a task force set up after the November election is comprised of both advocates and opponents of Ballot Measure 10. It is a 21-page manuscript of proposed changes that Kafoury said would gut the law and, in fact, does not represent the consensus of the task force. The thrust of the bill is to take much of the power of LCDC and transfer it to the Legislature.

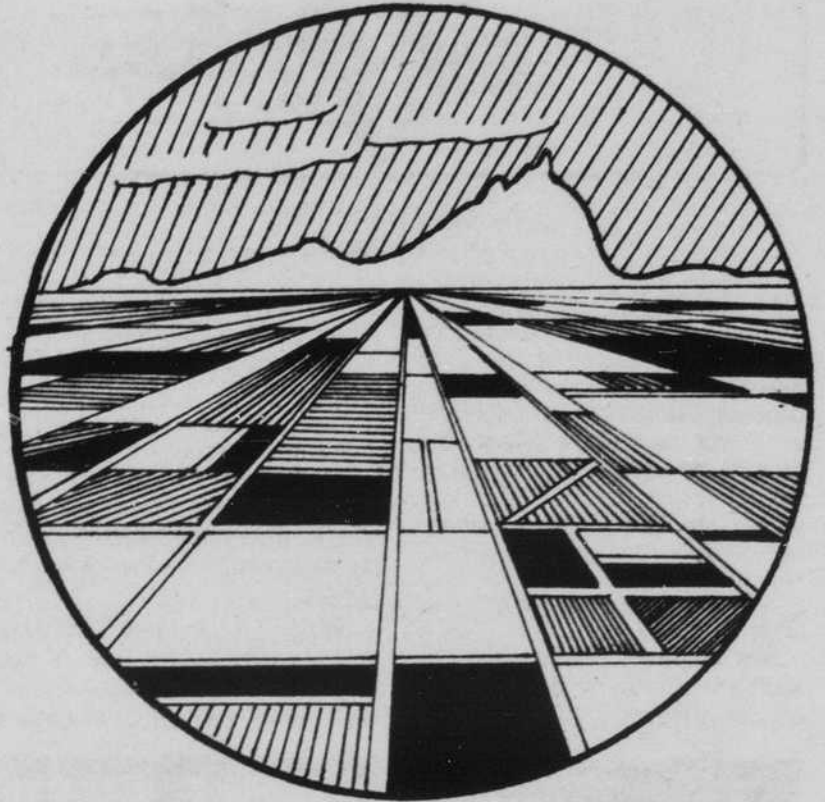
- SB-506, which would establish the state land board — the

governor, secretary of state and treasury — has as the final review body for appealed LCDC decisions of the non-compliance.

- SB-570, which would require that building and land-use permit applications be submitted to LCDC for administrative enforcement, would also add state agencies and special districts to the review process.

- SB-573, which was requested by the Oregon Environmental Council, would produce a number of changes. These include: a one-year leeway for local governments to comply with revised state goals; the right of citizens to appeal land-use actions; a 120-day deadline for LCDC to take action on appeals, and the inclusion of transmission lines and regional shopping centers as possible activities of state-wide significance.

- SB-595, would establish a state appeals commission to review LCDC violation rulings. The commission would consist of 12 members; four appointed by the governor; four appointed by the League of Oregon Cities, and four appointed by the Association of Oregon Counties.



Drawing by Laurie Zuckerman

Bill to limit campaign spending approved

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — A bill encouraging voluntary limits on campaign spending was approved by a 4-3 vote in the House Elections Committee Monday.

But it may be headed for a stormy floor fight in the House where the committee's three Republicans say they will vigorously oppose it.

HB 2037 allows candidates and political committees to sign a pledge form indicating whether they will limit campaign spending to specific amounts cited in the bill.

Opponents of the bill claim that the "voluntary pledge" to limit campaign expenditures circumvents a 1976 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that says campaign expenditure limits are unconstitutional.

"The whole idea behind this bill is to apply public pressure on candidates — through the aura of the state of Oregon — to limit campaign expenditures," said committee member Rep. Kip Lombard, R-Ashland. "It is an unconstitutional attempt to restrict free speech."

Reps. Lombard and Bill Rutherford, R-McMinnville, also claimed that a spending limit gives the incumbent an advantage, since the incumbent doesn't have to spend as much money as the challenger in the quest for name familiarity.

"The voluntary pledge isn't unconstitutional," says committee Rep. Mark Gardner, D-Hillsboro, "because no candidate is being forced to sign the pledge. The only kind of pressure would come from a candidate's opponent."

Committee chair Rep. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, says the bill will provide equal access to public office for both the rich and poor.

"Right now only the rich and friends of the rich have access to public office," said Kerans. "The right of equal access to public office that we have now is theoretical and often overwhelmed by unlimited campaign spending."

However, Rep. Hardy Meyers, D-Portland, questioned whether the bill would actually provide equal access to public office.

"The only thing governing equal access is whether the candidate can get the money," said Myers. "This bill doesn't raise a cent for anybody, and it doesn't get to the real problem of political financing. But it does attempt to moderate the level of political spending."

Whether HB 2037 will have any effect is debatable. An earlier, stronger version of the bill required candidates to sign a pledge saying they would or wouldn't abide by spending limits. The new version merely "allows" them to sign a limitation pledge — something they can already do under current law by challenging their opponents to limit campaign expenditures.

Center to give bill info

SALEM — The Legislature will consider nearly 3,000 bills within the next four months, some of which may outlaw part of your life or make part of it legal.

If you have an interest in particular legislation, you may have bumped into the mass confusion inherent in the legislative process.

The ASUO is establishing a system to aid your efforts to stay on the scent of particular legislation. Student government is setting up a Legislative Resource Center in Oregon Daily Emerald

Suite 4 of the EMU that will contain all proposed bills, the daily committee calendars and the weekly legislative guide to who's who in Salem.

Jeff Liss, one of the work-study students who will staff the center, says everyone is encouraged to utilize the facilities. The center will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and in addition to providing access to the volume of paper, Liss says the center will make copies upon request.

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