

Quilt-makers question business bill

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A bill that has caused some confusion among state hobby manufacturers of quilts and other fabric products, as well as the Oregon Health Division will be the subject of a county-wide public hearing Monday night in Harris Hall.

The bill, HB 3328, which permits the health division to reduce or waive special small business fees for people who manufacture

upholstered furniture and bedding as a hobby and then sell less than \$90 worth of those goods a year, probably shouldn't have been passed at all, says Nancie Fadeley, D-Eugene.

The bill was introduced by Redmond Rep. Sam Johnson as an amendment to a 1915 law which outlined the required conditions safety for furniture and bedding factories and was passed at the insistence of several Bend-area craftspeople, Fadeley says.

"I think they (the craftspeople) would have been better off if they hadn't asked for that bill to be passed," Fadeley explains.

The bill first came to Fadeley's attention when Johnson came to the State Government Operations committee with the backing of several Bend-area craftspeople to outline the proposed amendment and ask that it be passed. Even though it eventually was passed with only three opposing votes, the bill was poorly drafted and has caused more problems than the craftspeople anticipated, Fadeley says.

According to Bolva Greenleaf, owner of The Oak Patch, a fabric and quilting shop at 1473 Oak St., Monday's hearing should help answer some questions area craftspeople may have about the new law.

Greenleaf approached Fadeley about the bill as a representative of several quilting and craft shop owners who were concerned with its impact.

"There were some people who were afraid that the new law wouldn't let them make quilts in their own homes," she explains.

Several quilters thought the law would make them set aside one specific room in their homes to do the work, she says, and most don't have the room or carry their work with them from room to room.

Until a few weeks ago, Greenleaf says, Eugene shop owners and quilters didn't know the law existed. "We heard about it in a roundabout way," she explains. "Mostly we'd hear rumors through the grapevine."

Those fears are not grounded in fact, Bruce Arnold, manager of the State Health Division's Furniture and Bedding program says.

"I think the law was intended to give relief to hobby manufacturers who were being inspected," he says.

"Certainly people who make quilts in their own home for themselves or for gifts won't have to worry about it."

Full exemption hobby manufacturers from the 1915 furniture and bedding law was intended in the original House Bill, Fadeley says, but an amendment by Sen. Victor Atiyeh (R-Portland) set the limit on retail sales of home-manufactured quilts and goods at \$90 a

year, thus requiring hobby manufacturers to meet small business requirements and fees.

After the bill was passed with that amendment, Fadeley says, the craftspeople's relief was cut short. Part of the blame would have to be placed on the poorly-drafted bill they presented to the House, she says.

"They should have gone to the legislature well-prepared," she says. "What they have now is not helping them."

For Monday's hearing, Greenleaf and nearly 200 concerned Lane County quilters have prepared four or five pages of questions about the bill to be answered by Fadeley, Arnold and Douglas Pike, Chief of the Office of Protective Health Services.

But, Arnold says, no action will be taken on the bill until hearings on the rules attached to it can be held. Without clarification of those rules, Fadeley explains, the Health Division can't enforce the bill.

"What we're eventually going to have to do is amend the bill in the next legislative session," Fadeley says.

Handicapped children reap legislation benefits

A University program for handicapped children is expecting a brighter future with encouraging new legislation beginning to take effect.

Legal provisions such as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, guarantee free, appropriate education for handicapped children.

The University Regional Resource Center for Handicapped Children is one local agency expected to help with the education task, according to Anita Pine, administrative assistant for the center.

The program is one of 13 centers serving Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

According to Pine, the purpose of the center is to "deliver training, technical assistance and programming in each region. Members of our staff meet with each state's director of education, who in turn refers us to the people our ser-

vices can help."

"In the past, special education classes have been the only resource available to the handicapped," added Pine, "but now there will be more sharing in classrooms between handicapped and non-handicapped children" through 'mainstreaming.' This process is expected to acquaint teachers and students familiar with the handicapped.

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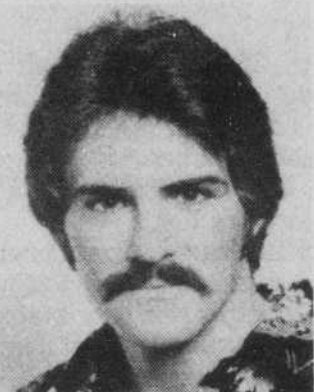
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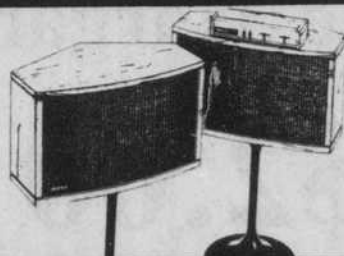
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