

Legislature closing in on sales tax solution

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Legislature completed action Monday night on a measure proposing the first statewide vote on a sales tax since 1969.

The measure, already passed by the House, is the key ingredient in a property tax relief package.

Three related bills still need final approval before the package is complete. But the House vote on the proposed constitutional amendment appears to pave the way for adjournment of the Legislature's special session, which completes its third week today.

Even if the package is endorsed by lawmakers, though, sales tax supporters have another hurdle to clear.

The tax measure won't reach the statewide ballot unless the plan is ratified by a majority of the state's 603 counties, cities and school districts.

That provision was added at the insistence of Senate President Ed Fadeley, an ardent sales tax foe.

The nine-month legislative stalemate over tax relief was broken early Saturday when the Senate approved, by a 16-14 vote, the measure endorsed by the House Monday.

The key House vote, 31-26, came on a motion to approve the compromise tax measure drafted by a Senate and House negotiating committee.

But the House action was no surprise. That chamber twice has approved tax measures this year, only to see them die in

the Senate.

The House also passed and sent to the Senate Monday night two of the three remaining bills. They would set up the machinery for a sales tax election next year and implement the proposed 4 percent retail sales tax if voters approve it.

The last measure, which has passed the Senate and needs House approval, would impose limits on local property tax rates and increases in assessed property values.

During Monday night's House debate, Rep. Rick Bauman, D-Portland, said that

sales tax supporters had been forced to pay too high a price to get the sales tax through the Senate.

He said the language requiring local government approval to put the measure on the ballot is "an unconstitutional abrogation of our responsibility" and a "booby trap" that could doom the proposal.

Some lawmakers have questioned whether the state constitution allows the Legislature to attach such conditions when it refers a measure to the voters.

The sales tax measure provides that any legal challenge will go directly to the Oregon Supreme Court.

Rep. Kip Lombard, R-Ashland, said Gov. Vic Atiyeh has pledged to call another special session so lawmakers could refer the sales tax directly to the ballot if the court blocks a vote on the measure as it is now written.

During the past 50 years, Oregon voters have turned thumbs down on the sales tax in six separate elections.

Fadeley urges voters to back away

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

If a proposed state sales tax of 4 percent is passed by the Legislature and by Oregon voters, it will bring relief to a few businessmen at the expense of consumers, state Senate President Ed Fadeley said Monday.

Though consumers will pay 60 percent of the tax, 60 percent of the property tax relief would go to commercial property owners, Fadeley said.

Speaking to the Lane County Women's Political Caucus, Fadeley called the sales tax a "butcher knife" in the back of consumers and likened it to the "Return of the Jedi" character Jabba the Hut: "it sucks up everything."

Fadeley's opposition to a sales tax is a personal crusade that he says stems from his memories of poverty as a child.

"They wanted us to pay \$1.04 for something when we didn't have the \$1 in the first place," he said.

Fadeley said the poor would pay a disproportionate share of the tax.

Though some have argued that the sales tax would bring in money from tourists, Fadeley said those revenues would be eaten up by the cost of administering the tax.

"I think the tourists should come here and spend money because there is no sales tax," he said.

Though Fadeley has been criticized for his attempts to prevent the sales tax from

going to the voters, he said there was no reason to have a resolution that voters almost certainly would reject.

"Oregonians don't need a sales tax and they don't want a sales tax," he said. He also said the election would cost taxpayers about \$300,000.

Fadeley said that his unsuccessful attempt to block the tax in the Senate had one good effect: it forced debate on the issue and brought information about the tax to voters.

And Fadeley's battle against the sales tax is far from over.

"We have a chance to do some good for everyone in Oregon by defeating the sales tax," he said.

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higher education and said his top priority was the tuition freeze — which he claimed is already having a positive impact on fall term enrollment. Davis is "confident" enrollment increases will hold up.

"Students are the greatest renewable resource in Oregon," Davis said.

After Atiyeh read the proclamation, student body presidents from all but one state system college signed it. Southern Oregon State College was not represented.

And for what Atiyeh dubbed "the visual

effects," hundreds of helium balloons colored with all the state system school colors — plus "some added colors" — were set loose.

After the ceremony, Davis responded to questions about the tuition freeze, calling it "a good thing," and saying he "wants to keep tuition low," though he was unsure how long the freeze would last.

When asked about the possibility of losing professors to other schools able to pay

higher salaries, Davis held to a positive outlook.

"The fear of losing professors is always there," he said. "But we have not had a large exodus of faculty this year. Many people live in Oregon because they want to live here."

The tougher entrance standards for new students is another important part in the higher education plan, Davis said. While he admitted some high schools may have trouble preparing their students for the new re-

quirements, the gains are worth it.

"Already we're seeing a tremendous impact," he said. The evidence is more "anecdotal" than statistical, but students seem to be taking more math, science and computer science than before, Davis said.

The ASUO is not planning any special events for higher education week, says ASUO Executive Assistant Sherri Schultz.

"We're not planning anything special because every week is 'higher ed' week," Schultz says.

SEARCH

Additional Non-Credit Workshops:

Correlated Integrities - This workshop will explore the implications and applications of Fuller's synergetic philosophy and geometry. We will discuss details of his rational/intuitive approach to science, society, religion, philosophy, and global perspectives. The goal of this workshop will be to develop insights into the nature, structure, and correlations between the various integrated systems which together form the meta-integrity of our universe and the consideration of world views arising from these insights.

Instructor: Robert Ledner

Day & Time: M-W, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Room 214, Friendly

Personal Lifestyle Design - This class consists of discussions based on the cable access TV show "Scientific Utopianism". The ideas presented in the tapes are stimulating to people who actively want to pursue the spectrum of conscious relationships, from group marriage and polyintimacy to world community. This class is intended for people who want to make practical positive changes in their lives and who like to share their ideas and perceptions with others. Participation is the price of admission. Video shows are on cable Channel 11 each Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. Discussions are on the following Tuesday evenings. Instructor: Alternative Relationship Center Staff

Day & Time: Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Room 107 Gilbert



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