



# world beat

## Panel approves sales tax bill

SALEM (AP) — The House Revenue Committee unanimously approved a sales tax plan on Wednesday, clearing it for a vote by the full House on Friday.

Committee Chair Tom Throop, D-Bend, predicted the package will get at least 40 favorable votes in the 60-member House.

If it wins House approval, the three-bill package will go to the Senate. If both chambers agree on a final version of the plan, the sales tax will be submitted to the voters at a special statewide election.

The House panel set Sept. 17 as the election date.

The committee spent a month working on the proposed 5 percent sales package advocated by Gov. Vic Atiyeh. The major alteration made by the panel was to earmark some sales tax

revenue for reducing income taxes. Atiyeh initially recommended that all money from the sales tax be used to cut local property taxes but last week agreed to the revision.

The state would net an estimated \$755 million a year from the 5 percent retail sales tax.

The money all would go to local schools and community colleges, cutting property taxes by about one-third and reducing

state income taxes by roughly 9 percent.

If approved by voters, the tax would take effect May 1, 1986, and would apply to most goods but not to services. Items exempt from the tax would include food for home consumption and prescription drugs.

The 5 percent tax rate would be in the state constitution, so it couldn't be increased without voter approval.

The plan would reduce income taxes by decreasing the

rates from a range of 4 percent to 10 percent to a range of 3.7 percent to 9.3 percent.

The Legislative Revenue Office estimates that would cut annual income taxes for a typical family of four making \$25,000 a year by \$111. A couple with that income would get a tax cut of \$109, a single person \$114.

School district property tax bases could, as now, rise by 6 percent a year without voter approval.

Districts could ask voters to override that restriction by adopting new property tax bases, but only at primary and general election in even-numbered years. In addition, voters could petition for a tax base election to be held in May of odd-numbered years.

Cities and counties couldn't adopt local sales taxes.

Retailers would be allowed to keep 2 percent of sales tax receipts to cover costs of collecting and sending the money to the state.

## Four anti-bias bills introduced

SALEM (AP) — The Senate Education Committee has introduced several bills aimed at dealing with discrimination in the State System of Higher Education.

A committee summary says the panel introduced the measures Monday in response to issues raised by women faculty members in a sex discrimination lawsuit against the college system that was tried in U.S. District Court in Portland.

Judge Helen Frye last week ruled, in the case called Penk vs. Board of Higher Education, that there was sex discrimination in only three of the 58 claims filed in the lawsuit. Women faculty members say the decision will be appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

One bill introduced by the Senate committee would require the higher education board to adopt a written salary schedule and hiring and employment policies and to draft a plan for eliminating any pay discrepancies based on sex or minority status.

Another measure would create an office of special equity hearings to handle complaints of discrimination in the college system.

Other bills would put two college faculty members on the higher education board and transfer authority for enforcing anti-discrimination rules from the college system to the Civil Rights Division of the Bureau of Labor & Industries.

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