

# Legislative Update

Editor's note: Here are highlights of the Oregon Legislature last week.

## Representative Recalled

Rep. Pat Gillis, R-Portland, was recalled by Multnomah County voters in an election Tuesday. Gillis was ousted by a 57-to-43-percent margin.

Gillis, a 24-year-old freshman representative, had been indicted by a Marion County grand jury for providing false information in the Oregon Voter's Pamphlet. He is the first Oregon legislator to be recalled in 50 years.

Republican precinct committee leaders will meet April 11 to submit nominations for Gillis' successor.

The District 20 precinct

leaders will pick five nominees whose names will be submitted to the secretary of state and forwarded to the Multnomah County Commission. The commission will name Gillis' successor from the five nominees.

The selection process must be completed within 30 days or the governor will be required to appoint a successor to Gillis.

Gillis' successor must be a registered Republican from District 20.

## Sales Tax

Sales tax supporters are expected to put on the pressure to move the proposal out of the Senate Revenue Committee in the coming week.

Senate President John Kitzhaver, D-Roseburg, said he wanted the tax panel to wind up work by the end of the week and

send the proposal to the full Senate.

That's no guarantee it will happen. But sales tax supporters are getting nervous because the version of the tax package that was whisked through the House is churning in heavy seas in the Senate.

The biggest sticking point is how tight a property tax ceiling to clamp on schools in trying to ensure that those levies don't continue climbing if voters also impose a sales tax on themselves.

Senate Republicans want a tighter revenue lid than the House put in the package.

Formidable forces oppose wholesale changes in the House provisions, including Gov. Vic Atiyeh and the Oregon Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union.

But minority Republicans in the Senate also have plenty of

clout because, as Kitzhaver acknowledges, the Democrats don't have enough votes for the sales tax plan in their caucus to push it through by themselves.

## Seat Belts

The Senate Transportation Committee approved and sent to the Senate a bill (Senate Bill 342) that would require passengers under 16 years old to wear a seat belt or other restraint.

Current law requires restraint for passengers under 5 years old. The House recently defeated a Senate bill that would have required seat belts for all passengers.

On Thursday, the Senate passed and sent to the House a bill (SB 30) making it a felony to tamper with the odometers of used cars and requiring that odometer readings be recorded on vehicle titles when cars change hands.

## This Week

Small business and the "Buy Oregon" plan will be the topic of a Lane County Caucus

"brown bag" forum Thursday.

Rep. Ron Eachus, D-Eugene, will chair the meeting of Lane County legislators at noon in the State Capitol.

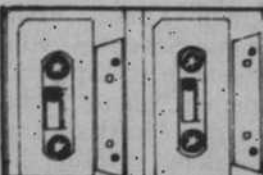
The Senate Energy/Natural Resources Committee begins hearings Thursday on a bill to require refundable deposits, now mandatory for soda pop and beer bottles and cans, on carbonated wine and carbonated fruit juice containers.

The Senate Human Resources Committee opens hearings Thursday on a bill to expand the law restricting smoking in public places to include workplaces in private industry.

The Senate Judiciary Committee begins hearings Thursday on a bill to give the governor emergency authority to reduce prison populations when crowding becomes severe. The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill to extend the time limit for prosecuting sex crimes against children.

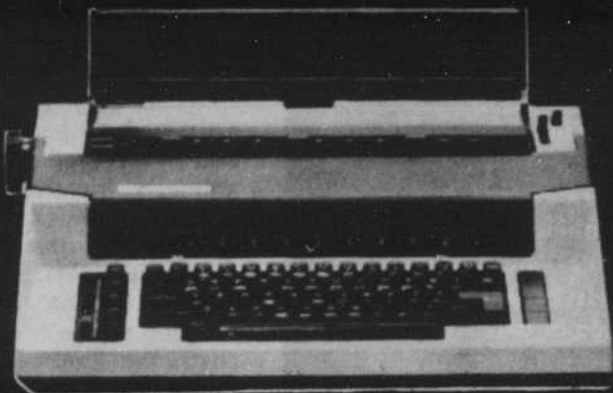
The House Human Resources Committee begins hearings Wednesday on a bill to forbid investing state funds in businesses and banks doing business with South Africa.

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