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Legislative Update

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

'Tax War'

A bill aimed at settling the "tax war" between Oregon and Washington state won final approval Friday.

House Bill 2737, which now goes to Gov. Vic Atiyeh, repeals an Oregon law that boosted taxes for many Washington state residents who work in Oregon.

The feud between the states was sparked by a 1983 tax law change made by Oregon lawmakers to require non-residents to pay tax rates based on entire household income, not just on money earned in Oregon.

Last year, Washington lawmakers retaliated for the 1983 Oregon tax law by passing a measure allowing Washington counties along the Columbia River to slap a "commuter tax" on Oregonians who work in Washington.

Student Lawsuits

The Senate resurrected a bill to allow students to file lawsuits in state courts if they feel they have been discriminated against by their schools. Rejected on Wednesday, Senate Bill 413 was revived on Thursday and sent to the House.

The bill would give students the same rights as employees in taking such suits to circuit courts.

Miscellaneous

The House passed a measure (HB 2266) to raise gasoline taxes from 10 cents to 11 cents a gallon to finance highway repairs. The tax would rise to 12 cents in 1987.

The Senate passed a bill to legalize the sale of frozen tofu as a dessert product. The sale of soybased Toffutti is technically illegal in Oregon because of a 32-year-old law that says frozen desserts must contain dairy products.

The house approved a bill (HB 2719) that directs the state Education Department to establish a program to teach students about the effects of nuclear war.

This Week

The Lane County Caucus will discuss the higher education budget at a brown-bag forum at noon Thursday in Room 357 of the Capitol Building.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to act Tuesday on a controversial House-passed bill to require auto emission inspections in the Medford-Ashland area.

The Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee is to work Wednesday on a bill dealing with liability of bar owners for damages caused by intoxicated patrons.

The House State and Federal Affairs Committee is to act Monday on a bill to extend the law allowing elections by mail.

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IFC

The Incidental Fee Committee completed the 1985-86 budget last week and submitted it to the ASUO for consideration.

The IFC met with Athletic Department Assistant Director Chris Voelz, ASUO President Julie Davis, and ASUO Finance Coordinator John Dreeszen on Tuesday to consider the Athletic Department's budget contract. The contract included the provision that incidental fees shall fund 50 percent of the expenses of men's sports, excluding football and basketball; co-ed sorts; and women's sports.

But the ASUO vetoed the total budget of \$773,009 last week, returning it to the IFC for reconsideration.

Davis told the IFC that the

allocation was "unjustified at this time" and added that students are currently giving as much as they can. A 3 percent tuition increase next year, reductions in individual financial aid awards, and a history of substantial Athletic Department budget increases were factors considered in the decision, Davis said.

Bob Mead, IFC chair, said the IFC will try to override the veto with the required five votes. If the IFC cannot override the veto, the committee will ask the ASUO and the department to renegotiate a proposal, Mead said.

The committee passed the IFC childcare subsidy of \$48,000 at Monday's meeting, which is an increase of \$3,000 over last year.

The IFC denied the Foreign

Student Organization's \$800 request to cover unanticipated expenses for International Night at Wednesday's meeting.

EMU Board

The EMU Board met Thursday and arrived at a compromise affirmative action policy to one they had proposed earlier.

If enacted, the new policy will require all groups using EMU office space and lobby tables to post signs stating whether or not they comply with EMU affirmative action guidelines.

Under the original policy, which was proposed and approved by the board in April, non-student groups that did not comply with EMU affirmative action guidelines would not have been allowed to use EMU facilities.

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Monday, May 13, 1985

