Unlicensed legal service workers threatened by proposed legislation

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A bill recently passed by the Oregon House of Representatives, and now being heard by the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee, has raised the hackles of the Consumer Sounding Board, Inc., an Oregon and California based-group of consumer advocates and paralegals.

The bill, HB 2301, would require the Board of Governors of the Oregon State Bar Association to investigate any alleged incidents of unlicensed law practice. Keith Burns, a Salem lobbyist and lawyer requested the bill.

"Para-legals work independently of attorneys to help people perform legal services in non-contested cases," said Peggy Muse of the CSB.

The law would not only outlaw para-legals, she said, but would make it unlawful for anyone to assist in the preparation of legal documents.

However, "merely assisting someone in typing a document or supplying forms" would not be outlawed by the bill, Reimer said.

Legislative issues

"It is pretty clear that people (not licensed to practice law) can't help people decide what forms to use, or determine what laws apply, or what action to take," he said. In short, the bill says people are not allowed to exercise professional judgment if they have not had the proper legal training and education, he said.

This bill will not change the current definition of practicing law, but will provide a means to enforce existing laws pro-

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face, an area where the electrons move most freely.

The faster the movement of electrons, the greater the speed with which the computer chip can transfer information or pick up communication signals.

The research has shown the electrical conductivity of this area can be enhanced through stimulation by white light, or the persistent photo-conductivity effect, Martin said. "The photo-conductivity effect has been known for a long time," Martin said.

While this effect can be beneficial, Martin said, problems may also occur if the chip is accidentally exposed to white or infrared light.

Shining a flashlight on a chip of this nature could cause a computer to "crash," Martin said. "Metal would act as a shield," he noted.

Through the layering process, scientists "grow" computer chips with several components, with the primary component of the new chips being gallium arsenide, Martin said.

The top layer of the chip is a mixture of aluminum, silicon and gallium arsenide.

In a process called "doping," silicon is added to the chip because it functions as a donor, or a substance which increases the conductivity by releasing electrons into the layer of gallium arsenide, Martin said."

The second layer is merely aluminum and gallium arsenide, and has not been "doped" with silicon as in the previous layer, he said.

Between these two layers and the bottom two layers is the interface, through which the electrons move as they are conducted through the chip.

The fourth layer is made up of pure gallium arsenide, and the fifth layer is gallium arsenide that has been semi-insulated to prevent excess electricity from being conducted through it.

"Typically you don't want the electrons to move from top to bottom," Martin said. "You want them to move from side to side so they operate more efficiently."

Because of the layering process, scientists are able to channel electricity through areas where it will have the highest mobility, and thus the greatest speed of conductivity through the chip.

This speed is then further enhanced when the chip is exposed to white light.

These two techniques are of greater use because they enable devices to turn on and off at a faster rate than before, as well as enabling them to process information faster, Martin said.

Companies such as Tektronics, and a more specialized company, Tryquint, are particularly interested in this kind of technology because it would enable them to build higher quality transistor components for use in everything from radios to satellite telecommunication equipment, Martin said.

And companies such as IBM, A.T.& T., Hughes, and Rockwell are interested in the research because of the faster rate at which they could communicate with such microchips, he said.

In the future it may be possible to transfer information at 10 times the speed we use at this time. Techniques such as molecular beam epitaxy and the persistent photo-conductivity effect will make this possible.