

House approves bill easing voting rules

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

A bill that would "help people (voters) who are between a rock and a hard place" because of a name or address change was passed overwhelmingly by the House on Tuesday.

Peg Jolin, D-Cottage Grove, primary sponsor of HB 3355, said many Oregonians are effectively eliminated from voting in Oregon if their address or name changes within the 20-day cushion before which all Oregonians must be registered in order to vote.

She introduced the bill to address the needs of these people, she said.

This bill would iron out the kinks in a current Oregon law requiring people voting to be registered at least 20 days before an



election.

The bill would allow people whose names change because of divorce or marriage to go to the polling place and vote, provided they bring valid proof of their former name.

People who change addresses within the 20-day period may go to the office of their former voting precinct and fill out a certification card to take with them to the polling place on the day they vote.

Before 1973, Oregon voters were required to be registered 30 days before an election. In 1973 then-Rep. Norma Paulus introduced legislation allowing voters to register on the day of the election.

The legislation was signed into law and stood until 1985 when the requirement was changed to registration one day before the election.

Then in 1986, the 20-day registration restriction was voted into law.

Jolin described the bill as a very simple piece of legislation that will allow legitimate Oregon voters who have not been able to vote because of extenuating circumstances to do so.

DEQ seeks input on chemical act

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Federal legislation passed last year requires state and local governments and private industry to plan for possible emergencies resulting from the release of hazardous chemicals into the environment.

To comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, the state Department of Environmental Quality is seeking input from private citizens, local governments and industry.

The state is responsible for establishing and overseeing the local Emergency Planning Districts and Emergency Planning Committees, which are required by the federal statute.

The emergency districts and committees are to be responsible for developing evacuation procedures and other plans associated with a hazardous chemical emergency.

The deadlines for establishing the local emergency districts and committees are approaching in July and August, said Bruce Sutherland, a representative of the state DEQ.

Sutherland met with a group of citizens and industry representatives Wednesday in Eugene to explain the requirements of the federal law, and to solicit input that the state needs before establishing the local emergency districts and

committees.

How should the state be divided when the emergency planning districts are established? Should counties, state police districts or DEQ regions serve as the borders of the new emergency districts? And how should members of the emergency planning committees be selected in those districts?

Those are the major questions

the state DEQ must answer before drawing the boundaries of the local emergency districts, Sutherland said.

The federal law lists the minimum requirements that a local emergency district and committee must meet, but it does not provide any guidelines on how to establish the committees and districts or how to operate them, Sutherland said.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Circle K service club will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room C.

The Riverfront Design Advisory Committee meets today at 3 in 205F Science I to discuss the Master Site Plan.

Condon Geological Society meets Friday at 2:30 in 47 Geology to discuss field trip possibilities.

The Public Relations Student Society of America will hold its last informational meeting of the year today at 5 in 301A Allen.

The Undergraduate Economics Association meets today at 5:30 in 412 PLC.

INTERVIEWS

Student Activities Resource Office is sponsoring a seminar, "What They Don't Teach You at Harvard Business School," today at 4 in the EMU Forum Room.

Formally admitted elementary and secondary education

students may be eligible to receive a \$500 scholarship. Applications are available in 175 Education and are due May 31.

LECTURES

The Telecommunications and Film Association will show work by current graduate students tonight at 6 in 204 Villard.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Peace Center in Boulder, Colo., will present slides and a discussion about anti-nuclear protest through civil disobedience tonight at 8 in the EMU Forum Room.

David Wright, professor of anthropology from Queretaro, Mexico, will lecture on "The Ball Courts of Ancient Mesoamerica" tonight at 7:30 in 107 Lawrence.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Herpes Information and Support Group will present a video tonight from 7 to 9 in Conference Room 5-Main of Sacred Heart General Hospital.

PT/OT Workshop today — Melinda Larson from Pacific University will meet PT students at 11:30 a.m. and OT students at 12:15 p.m. in 164 Oregon Hall, ext. 3211.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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