

# 'Dangerous' students could be banned from campus

By Fred Hagen  
Emerald Contributor

SALEM — If you want to stay in school, don't do anything that campus officials might consider dangerous if a bill before the Oregon Legislature passes.

House Bill 2186 would allow a "responsible official" to ban a student or employee from campus without a hearing if the

zen of the United States and shouldn't be found guilty without going through a hearing."

Rep. Bill Dwyer, D-Springfield, one of six House members who voted against the bill, said it is overly broad and open to abuse.

"Whatever happened to due process?" he asked.

"This bill infringes on students' rights," said ASUO President Jennifer Bills. "It al-

determine the criteria for "responsible officials" if the bill passes.

Dominy said he hasn't seen anything that warrants this kind of bill.

"I just don't think they can pass laws to take care of every

situation," he said. "The only way to make campuses completely safe is for no one to show up."

"There are already enough laws to take care of these problems."

Existing rules allow students

and employees to be banned from University property without going through a student conduct code hearing, which can take several weeks.

Students can be banned or evicted from University housing if they are causing a threat to themselves or others.



official believes that person poses an "immediate danger to the public health and safety."

The bill passed in the House in April and is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Under the bill, a hearing would be required within 15 days of the decision to ban an individual from campus, or within three days following a request by the person who is banned.

Melinda Grier, legal services director for the Oregon State System of Higher Education, said the state system requested the bill in the interest of campus safety.

"From time to time students and employees become dangerous," she said.

Grier said students can cause an ongoing danger unless the University can keep them off campus while they await a hearing.

Others see the bill in a different, more threatening, light.

Rep. Sam Dominy, D-Cottage Grove, voted against the bill because "a student is still a citi-

zens the administration too much power. It promotes the old boy network."

The Oregon Student Lobby and the ASUO supported the bill after an amendment was added that requires a hearing within three days.

Lynn Pickney of Oregon Student Lobby said "there have been increasing incidents on campus where students have not felt safe."

But Kristin Storey, the political activities chairwoman for the Panhellenic Council, said she feels safe enough on campus without the bill.

"There is more security on campus," she said. "There are lots of buttons to push, buildings to run into, and people to help you."

Storey is also concerned about the bill's vague wording.

"Who constitutes a 'responsible official?'" she asked. "I could be a responsible official. I have an office on campus."

Grier said administrators at each of the state's public colleges and universities would

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