

House approves bill allowing family leave

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon House on Monday adopted a measure giving workers the right to take unpaid leave when relatives fall ill.

The measure also modifies rules for parental and pregnancy disability leaves already written into law.

Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts has opposed the bill, saying she prefers a version limiting family leave to cases of catastrophic illness.

The House also voted on that measure Monday and decided to table it. The move at least temporarily killed the version preferred by Roberts.

The bill approved by the House, SB 39, would integrate rules governing sick leave, family medical leave, parental leave and pregnancy leaves.

Provisions guaranteeing unpaid sick leave and family medical leave would be new.

The bill would guarantee workers 12 days of unpaid sick leave per year. Oregon law currently does not require employers to provide sick leave.

Employers with 25 or more employees would be affected.

Workers could take up to 135 work days of total leave from all categories in a two-year period.

Workers would have the right to return to work, if a job for them is available, for 90 days after their leave ends.

Under current law, workers returning from pregnancy disability or parental leaves have unlimited rights to return to work.



Summertime blues

Summer session students can't escape long lines at the University Bookstore to buy textbooks, but cashiers Ruth Gross (left) and Dale Hockeby try to speed things along Monday afternoon on the first day of classes.

Photo by Jeff Paslay



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