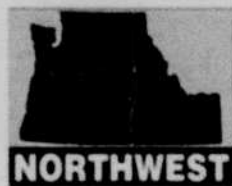


# Lawmakers support Initiative 159



**NORTHWEST**

OLYMPIA (AP) — Crime victims wept, an ex-convict pleaded, prosecutors endorsed and a defense lawyer condemned when

lawmakers on Tuesday took up a citizen measure intended to clamp down on criminals with deadly weapons.

"We the people do not give a damn what it costs to get these people off the streets," said a weeping Sheryl Kinard, whose husband, Jim, was slain five months ago.

She spoke in favor of Legislative Initiative 159 — the "Hard Time for Armed Crime" measure to impose longer prison sentences for crimes involving weapons. The tougher sentences would increase based on the weaponry and severity of the crime.

The most serious gun crimes would net the person an extra five years in prison and 10 years for a second offense — this on top

of the standard sentence for the crime. The Republican House is expected to pass the measure within two weeks. Its prospects in the Democrat-controlled Senate are less certain, although Majority Leader Marcus Gaspard, D-Puyallup, likes it. Gov. Mike Lowry has said he doesn't like parts of it. Voters will get a crack at it in November if lawmakers don't pass it.

The measure also would curtail "good time" early release for felons who used weapons and would widen the death penalty to include drive-by shootings, murder committed during a house burglary and murder related to gaining membership into a gang.

Kinard's testimony, and that of other crime victims, wetted the eyes of several members of the Republican-controlled House Judiciary and Corrections committees.

But scorn was the main emotion when Perry Buck, a Vancouver defense lawyer, urged the panel not to pass the initiative, contending it would not deter criminals and would cost already-burdened tax-

payers more money. "We already have enhanced penalties" for weapon crimes, he said. "There are finite limits" and only so much money to go around.

In response to questions from lawmakers, many of them first-termers, Buck said the public considers the economy, not crime, the chief concern. He also said saving money, at some point, must take precedence over protecting citizens from crime.

House Corrections Chairwoman Ida Ballasiotes, R-Mercer Island, whose daughter, Diane, was slain in Seattle in 1988, said she was tired of hearing objections based on cost.

"We will find the money," she said. The cost of the measure is still not known. The prison system was unable to give an estimate on Tuesday. But one of the measure's main backers, John Carlson of Bellevue, said the proposal would require 900 more beds in the prison system over 20 years, a system that now has 12,000 beds.

## Legislature presented new bills

SALEM (AP) — New bills introduced Tuesday in the Oregon Legislature included ones to:

- Reduce from 15 to 12 the minimum age at which juveniles can be tried in adult court for murder and other major felonies, HB2248, at request of former House Speaker Larry Campbell.

- Require a minimum two-year prison term for drunken driving, HB2251, at request of Campbell.

- Revises education reform plan, allows state to extend deadlines for local school districts to comply, SB98, at request of State School Superintendent Norma Paulus.

- Requires disciplinary proceedings and records of state professional licensing boards, including Board of Medical Examiners, to be open to public, SB94, at request of Senate Interim Judiciary Committee.

- Extend the statute of limitations for bringing lawsuits against manufacturers of intrauterine devices, SB93, at request of Senate Interim Judiciary Committee.

- Prohibit employers from discriminating against employees for engaging in political activities or running for public office, SB91, at request of Senate Interim Judiciary Committee.

- Reduces maximum fines, revises bails for traffic offenses, SB64, at request of Oregon State Bar.

- Propose a ballot measure amending the state constitution to raise the number of signatures needed to put proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot.

## Man on coast-to-coast trek for sick girl

ASTORIA (AP) — Motivated by his concerns for a seriously ill child, Richard Satterfield has set out on a bicycle ride from the northern tip of Washington to the southern tip of Argentina.

His trip along the coast of two continents began Jan. 1 at Cape Flattery and is to end at Cape Horn.

He wants to help Julie Einspahr, a 12-year-old girl who lives in Evergreen, Colo.

"I promised I would do something," said Satterfield, 29, of Grangeville, Idaho, during a stopover in Astoria last week.

He met the girl and her family in August 1993 at Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. Satterfield's daughter, now 6, was there to be treated for epilepsy; Julie was her hospital roommate.

Julie has cerebral palsy, multiple-seizure disorder and other related medical disorders. Her parents, Jack and Sharon Einspahr, blame her condition on a diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus shot that their daughter received at 4 months.

Satterfield said he hopes his trip will motivate someone to set up a fund for the girl or work to help other sick children.

"I would like someone to start one (a fund) if they'd like to do something for Julie," he said. "But if they're not comfortable with that, I'd like people to look for kids in their own area who might be like Julie and need help."

He said that while he hopes to raise money for the girl, he is not himself accepting donations or starting a fund. A procedure for handling donations is still being set up.

Satterfield said he was moved by the Colorado family's devotion to Julie and by the amount of work required for her care.

"They want to keep her at home; they don't want to put her in an institution, even though the state would pay for them to do that," Satterfield said.

Jack Einspahr quit his real estate career for a lower paying job, driving a school bus in order to qualify his family for Medicaid. The family relies on a local church group for assistance with food and other basic needs.

"She needs 24-hour care," said Sharon Einspahr from Evergreen, Colo. "She has seizures, usually every day. She's fed by a tube and gets all her medication through a tube."

## Citizens support new city incorporation; others firmly oppose

SPOKANE (AP) — Spokane Valley residents who want to create a new city began a third incorporation drive Tuesday, this time a more modest effort for a smaller city of about 65,000 people.

Citizens for Valley Incorporation, which led failed incorporation campaigns in 1990 and last April, expects the smaller size to appeal to voters, said Joe McKinnon, the group's co-chairman.

The proposed boundaries in last year's measure

would have created a city of 77,000 in suburbs east of the city of Spokane.

The newly proposed boundaries for the city of Spokane Valley exclude neighborhoods where voter opposition was highest last year, McKinnon said.

"The third time is always a charm," McKinnon said. "I think we're singing to the choir this time around."

Last year, the incorporation measure received 44 percent support, up from 34 percent in 1990. The measure

needs a simple majority to pass.

Spokane County elections officials Monday confirmed that Citizens for Valley Incorporation had obtained enough valid petition signatures to place the measure on the ballot. The group collected more than 4,000 names, and needed 3,212, or 10 percent of the registered voters within the proposed city's boundaries, McKinnon said.

Fund raising and other campaign activities began Tuesday, he said. Proponents hope for a May 16 vote.

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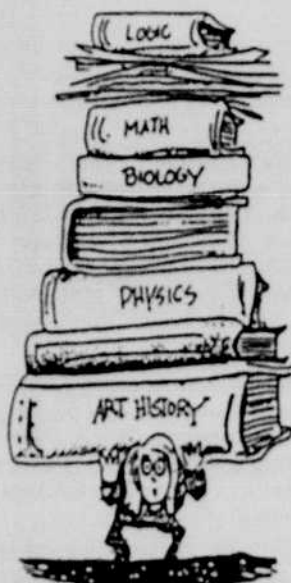
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