

Bailey's Bill clears latest obstacle with Judiciary Committee's OK

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

SALEM — A bipartisan bill that increases penalties for teachers who sexually abuse students is headed to the House floor. The 10 members of Oregon's House Judiciary Committee voted unanimously on Monday night, May 24, to move



Hansell

Bailey's Bill forward. But the journey of Senate Bill 649 through the Oregon legislative process has been bumpier than the law's original sponsor, Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, ever could have imagined.

The bill, named for Weston-McEwen High School student Bailey Munck, increases penalties for criminal sexual contact with an underage victim if the offender was the victim's teacher. If approved by the House and signed

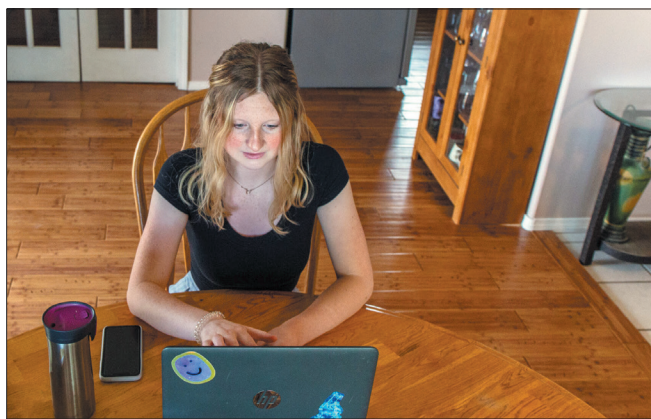
by Gov. Kate Brown, the legislation fixes a discrepancy. Currently, a coach convicted of sexual abuse receives harsher penalties than a teacher who commits the exact same crime.

"It's been an interesting and arduous journey getting Bailey's Bill through the process," Hansell said after the May 21 hearing.

Bill becomes political tool

"Interesting" and "arduous" refer to obstructions that threatened to kill the bill at different points along the way. The most recent came in the form of two amendments authored by Rep. Marty Wilde, D-Eugene. The amendments would have essentially torpedoed the bill, replacing most of the verbiage with language that actually does the opposite of the original proposed legislation.

During the May 24, Wilde explained he simply



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Bailey Munck testifies at a House judiciary committee hearing about Bailey's Bill on May 18, 2021, from her home in Athena.

was expressing his desire to start a discussion on sentencing reform.

"I think we need to acknowledge each other's legitimate concerns," said Wilde, who is an attorney. "Many in my party believe that we are over-punishing and we do need to address mass incarceration. I believe people in the other party aren't wrong either when they believe

that people have committed truly atrocious acts and should go away for a long period of time. I think where we might find agreement on that is restoring some greater degree of discretion to sentencing judges to make appropriate sentences based on the facts of those cases."

When the chair, Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, called for a vote,

all 10 members voted aye. On April 19, members of the Senate also passed the bill unanimously after the Senate Judiciary Committee's unanimous recommendation.

Another threat to the bill happened earlier this month when it appeared Bynum likely wasn't going to schedule SB 649 for a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee, a move that would doom the bill. The other members dusted off a rarely used House rule that says if a majority of committee members request a hearing in writing, the chair must schedule one within five days. They wrote a letter to Bynum that all members signed. Given no other choice, Bynum scheduled a hearing.

Filling a gap in the law

During public testimony May 24, former Umatilla County Chief Deputy District Attorney Jaclyn Jen-

kins spoke about the experience of Munck, now 17. Munck testified earlier during Senate and House committee hearings about sexual abuse during a 2019 volleyball trip by Andrew DeYoe, an English teacher and scorekeeper for the volleyball team.

He later abused her in his classroom. DeYoe, 31, after pleading guilty to harassment that included sexual touching, spent a night in the Umatilla County Jail and will serve five years probation. He wasn't required to register as a sex offender.

If DeYoe had been a coach, he might have been convicted of a Class C felony, a crime that carries sentences up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine.

Jenkins said teachers are in a position of power and authority and therefore should have stiff penalties when they abuse their students.

Oregon discloses huge surge in wasted COVID-19 vaccines

The Oregonian

SALEM — More than half of all Oregonians are now at least partially vaccinated against COVID-19. But demand has slowed in recent weeks, and that's apparently playing a role in the growing number of wasted doses reported by state health officials.

On Tuesday, May 25, the Oregon Health Authority reported 9,090 vaccine doses have now been wasted, spoiled or expired since December. That's more than double the total disclosed last week, which stood at 4,418, and it's more than quadruple the 1,922 reported three weeks ago.

For context, Oregon through May 4 had reported administering nearly 3.1 million doses of vaccine,

meaning just 0.06% of doses had been wasted, spoiled or expired.

But since then, Oregon has reported administering 719,665 doses against 7,168 that have been wasted, according to calculations of state data by The Oregonian.

That means that for every 100 doses recently administered, one dose has been wasted — a far higher rate than during the first five months of vaccinations.

Tim Heider, a spokesman for OHA, said in an email that wastage "may increase as the vaccine rollout continues." He said that's because vial sizes for some vaccines have increased, those vials may be opened without every dose being

used, and more providers, including smaller sites, are now receiving vaccines.

Heider's response matches wording from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention document written last week, which he did not attribute to the CDC.

"We recognize that as we continue to create more opportunities to vaccinate more people, it may increase the likelihood of leaving unused doses in a vial," the CDC document said. "While we want to continue to follow best practices to use every dose possible, we do not want that to be at the expense of missing an opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person when they are ready to get vaccinated."



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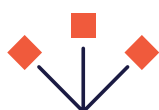
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