

5th WEEK 1 R 9 O 6 U 3 N D U P L E G I S L A T U R E

The Law and Legislation Committee has approved six bills for submission to the 1963 Legislature. Others are under consideration at this time, but await further study before they will be acceptable.

Already enrolled are the following:

HB 1226 Increasing the rate for private car mileage on state business: The rate now is reduced from seven cents to six cents a mile after the first thousand miles. Exhaustive surveys of similar allowances in other state governments reveal that out-of-pocket costs exceed seven cents (or for that matter eight cents) and that eight cents is now the accepted minimum for this purpose. This amount appears to be lower than the national average of all fifty states, however a straight eight cents per mile basis will be requested. Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

HB 1309 Salary standards measure: This measure, which has been introduced to previous legislatures, calls for a policy of paying prevailing rates to State employees comparable to those paid for the same duties in private industry and other public employment. This measure provides a continuation of the Civil Service Commission salary survey of these classifications and positions and for the adoption of a salary plan based upon these findings following thorough examination. Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

HB 1287 Definition of overtime—40 hour week: This bill provides that the working rules as adopted by the Civil Service Commission shall provide for overtime compensation in addition to other matters covered by ORS 240.505 which is the existing statute. It further provides in an added section to the current statute that the rules specify a 40-hour work week for all departments of State employment; that all time worked in excess of 40 hours shall be considered overtime. This request brings into equitable contacts the now existing practice reflected under ORS 279.334 which specifies a 40-hour week plus overtime for all persons employed under a contract to the State, county, school district, municipalities, etc. During the last Legislature, the State Police were placed upon a 40-hour week, and it is felt that this area involving emergency situations should be carried to the point of placing the 40-hour work week in effect throughout State service, wherever and however the work may be situated. Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

HB 1338 Contracted services: This measure provides that the Civil Service Commissioner examine any proposal to contract for professional services outside existing State personnel, and determine if the need cannot be performed without needless expense and delay by those now in State service. The Association feels this bill is necessary as a safeguard against harm to job tenure of professional persons in state employ, and that it would safeguard the principles of the merit system as designed. Referred to Ways and Means Committee.

HB 1411 Medical-hospitalization insurance: This bill calls for a contribution by the State on behalf of any regular employee of \$5 a month toward the expense of medical-hospitalization insurance. Now in practice in several other states, this plan originated with OSEA but without legislative success. It would give the employee a selection of five plans or carriers, and would become effective if one-fifth of the employees in any one operating department would sign up for any one of the specific plans. It is doubted that in practice any department would be involved with more than three of the plans at one time. Read the first time on February 13.

A bill not yet enrolled is called the **Unemployment Compensation** bill and would allow a retired state employee who is still in the labor market, yet unemployed, to receive enough from unemployment compensation to supplement his weekly income to legal limits under the unemployment compensation law. This would amend the current statute which specifically excludes state employees, although allowing those from private employment to receive this benefit.

Bills not introduced by OSEA, but of interest to state employees, bear watching. The most familiar one is the Governor's Budget salary bill which has already drawn unfavorable comment from the Association. It is enrolled as **HB 2084** and is decidedly under the survey-based recommendations of the Civil Service Commission. OSEA is striving for equity in this area.

HJR 1 is the Constitutional Revision measure. OSEA is attempting to have the merit system concept incorporated in the new Constitution, should it be approved.

SB 8 would prohibit state employees from working at the State Fair. This is a discriminatory bill because it states no reason for the prohibition, and does not mention other areas of employment which provide short term employees for this annual event.

HB 1098 provides that the work day following a legal holiday which falls on a Saturday or Sunday be a holiday for all public employees. The Law and Legislation Committee withholds an opinion of this measure until it is known whether or not this practice prevails in private industry and other public jurisdictions.

HB 1078 would, in part, have state employees report to the Attorney General any claims against the state which the employee might conclude would be made. This bill does not spell out the obligation entailed, nor does it say what penalty might be levied against the employee if he fails to make such a report. OSEA feels that this should be clarified.

HB 1271 authorizes deductions from monthly salaries of state employees for payment to credit unions. It would allow two credit unions to operate in any department. This bill seems to be in the interest of the state employee, giving him a service where none now exists.