

# LAW & JUSTICE

## Crime Laws May Get Racial Review

### Portland lawmakers advance bill on racial impacts

In hopes of better serving all of Oregon's citizens, the House of Representatives in Salem passed a bill Friday that deals with how future laws and ballot measures would impact racial and ethnic minorities. The bill, which moves back to the Senate to concur with the House

before being sent to Gov. John Kitzhaber for his signature, calls for racial and ethnic and racial impact statements for proposed legislation relating to criminal sentencing or child welfare policies upon the request of a member from each major party.

Rep. Lew Frederick, an African-American lawmaker representing north and northeast Portland, said in a press release, "I am excited about this legislation not only for the light it will shed on future proposals but also because we have a problem with disparate treatment based on race and ethnicity in this state, and it is time to stop looking away."

Sen. Chip Shields, also representing north and northeast Portland, first introduced the bill in 2009 which was modeled after Iowa's passage of a similar law.

Shields called the legislation "an important tool in assessing whether



Rep. Lew Frederick



Sen. Chip Shields

policies we propose are giving a fair shake to all Oregonians."

The bill passed the Oregon Sen-

ate in April with a 27-2 vote and was met with equally strong bi-partisan support in the House on a 58-1 vote.

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Postal workers gather outside the US Postal Service's Air Cargo Center near the airport on Saturday protesting increased privatization of jobs. PHOTO BY JERRY ATKIN

## Postal Workers Battle Privatization

Demonstrators took to the front of a US Postal Service location near the airport on Saturday to bring attention to the ever-increasing privatization of postal work.

The protesters called attention

to the many mail handlers and processing clerks losing their jobs as the work gets contracted out to non-union and non-postal companies.

There were over 40 people par-

ticipating in the demonstration with banners and signs, some of whom blocked the entrance to the Portland Air Cargo Center.

The rally went without incident or arrest.

## Affirmative Action Policy Adopted

The Portland School Board approved a proposed Affirmative Action policy Monday by a vote of 6-0.

The policy requires the school district to make meaningful efforts to recruit, employ, support and retain a qualified work force that reflects the diversity of the students in Portland Public Schools.

The statement calls on the district to make measur-

able progress every year in reaching goals established by the Oregon Minority Teachers Act to diversify the school district's work force.

The policy also is designed to help ensure a work and school environment free from discrimination, contribute to enhanced student performance and eliminate the achievement gap.