

Legislature advances bills for sick leave, retirement savings

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Majority Democrats in the Oregon Legislature have advanced requirements for businesses to provide paid sick leave and offer state-sponsored retirement savings plans to workers. The Senate passed the sick-leave requirement on a 17-13 vote Wednesday and moved Senate Bill 454 to the House. The House passed the retirement-savings option on a 32-26 vote Wednesday and moved House Bill 2960 to the Senate.

Both bills are expected to come up for votes in the other chamber soon.

Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose was the sole Democrat to join the 12 Republicans in opposition to SB 454.

Reps. David Gomberg, of Otis, and Caddy McKeown, of Coos Bay, were the Democrats who joined 24 Republicans in opposition to HB 2960. One Democrat and one Republican were excused.

The bills passed after debates of more than an hour in the Senate and 90 minutes in the House.

Retirement savings

“Far too many Americans and Oregonians are not saving enough for retirement,” said Rep. Tobias Read, D-Beaverton, one of the chief sponsors of HB 2960. “We can make it easier for Oregonians to do what is in their own best interests.”

A task force led by state Treasurer Ted Wheeler advanced the retirement-savings bill, which would make Oregon the third state to pass such legislation, after California and Illinois.

After the vote, Wheeler said in a statement:

“Far from being a burden on small businesses, the retirement security bill provides an attractive option to small business owners who would like to offer their employees a retirement plan, but cannot because of cost and administrative hassle.”

While businesses would be required to make a state-sponsored savings plan available in 2017, HB 2960 would not compel them to contribute to a plan, and workers could opt out of participating. A state board created in the Oregon State Treasury would develop a plan that is similar to an individual retirement account, and would be run by

a contractor must like the existing 529 Oregon College Savings Plan.

But Rep. Carl Wilson, R-Grants Pass, said workers already can choose from a variety of plans available in the market.

“We are putting together a great statewide mechanism for something that few people will take advantage of,” he said.

The task force found, however, that half of Oregon’s private-sector workers lack access to a savings plan at work — and that participation is likely to jump if one becomes available.

Sick leave

In the Senate, Democrats turned aside Republican attempts to apply the sick-leave requirement only to businesses with 25 or more workers, to require paid leave only for victims of crime and domestic violence, and to exempt agricultural workers.

“What I see is another polarizing issue,” said Sen. Chuck Thomsen, R-Hood River, an orchardist who moved unsuccessfully for the agricultural exemption.

SB 454 would allow workers to accrue leave at one hour for every 30 hours worked, or one and a third hours for every 40 hours worked, up to a maximum of 40 hours per year. Employers could set a maximum of 80 hours accrual, and limit use to 40 hours each year.

The bill applies to businesses with at least 10 workers. Part-time workers would accrue leave at the same rate.

“Working people shouldn’t be forced to choose between their jobs and their health,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum, D-Portland.

Oregon would become the fourth state to provide for such a requirement, after Connecticut, California and Massachusetts. If Senate Bill 454 passes the House and is signed by Gov. Kate Brown, it would take effect Jan. 1, although penalties for violations could not be levied until January 2017.

Portland already has a sick-leave requirement for businesses with six or more employees. The bill would allow Portland to retain that standard, which the city council put into effect in January 2014, but also nullify a Eugene ordinance that would apply the requirement to all businesses regardless of size.



Photo contributed by the Sherman County Sheriff’s Department

Biggs Junction fire destroys two homes

A fire that started in an abandoned apartment building in the Columbia River Gorge town of Biggs Junction destroyed that structure and two homes before winds began spreading it eastward through grass and brush toward the small community of Rufus. By Wednesday night, the blaze was 60 percent to 70 percent contained.

Umatilla man won’t face death penalty in triple murder

By KRISTIN M. KRAEMER
Tri-City Herald

A Umatilla man charged with fatally shooting three people in a Benton County orchard last summer will not face the death penalty.

Prosecutor Andy Miller confirmed for the court Tuesday that his office decided not to seek that sentence in the case of Francisco J. Resendez Miranda.

Resendez Miranda, 24, is charged in Benton County Superior Court with three counts of aggravated first-degree murder. If convicted of even one count of aggravated murder, he is looking at life in prison without the possibility of release.

Prosecutors allege he killed Abigail Torres-Renteria, 23, Victoria Torres, 19, and David Perez-Saucedo, 22.

The bodies of the three Pasco residents were found Aug. 9 on farmland off Nine Canyon Road, southeast of the intersection with Coffin Road. The women were not related.

The charges include the aggravating circumstance that Torres-Renteria was almost nine months pregnant when she was

killed. Under Washington law, a murder charge cannot be filed for an unborn baby.

On Tuesday, defense attorney Shane Silverthorn of Ellensburg said the investigation is ongoing and he is working with Miller to set up witness interviews.

Silverthorn also told Judge Bruce Spanner that co-counsel Michael Iaria of Seattle will withdraw from the case at some point this summer and be replaced by an unnamed attorney, who will move to the area and accept a public defender contract with Benton County.

The trial date was pushed back a week to Nov. 2 because of a conflict with the judge’s personal calendar.

When asked if he was OK with the delay, Resendez Miranda told Spanner: “Well, I don’t have any other choice. You will be gone.”

He does not object to the new trial date, but does not want to go any later, he said.

Resendez Miranda was arrested Aug. 10. He was held in the Umatilla County Jail until his Oregon charges were resolved and the extradition paperwork cleared the governors’ offices in both states.

Then he was moved in mid-January to the Benton County jail in Kennewick, where he is held without bail because it is an aggravated murder case. He also has a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement hold.

Resendez Miranda worked with Perez-Saucedo at a Wyckoff Farms property along the Columbia River in Paterson.

Court documents show the slayings might have been in retaliation for a break-in at Resendez Miranda’s apartment the night before.

Perez-Saucedo, Torres, Torres-Renteria and a fourth person had gone to Umatilla, possibly to a party, late Aug. 8. A farmworker discovered the three bodies at 5:30 a.m. the next morning in a field, which is about 15 miles from Resendez Miranda’s apartment.

No one else has been charged.



Miranda

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Very warm with plenty of sun	Plenty of sun	Plenty of sunshine	Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

89°	55°	83°	49°	78°	48°	82°	50°	86°	54°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

93°	58°	85°	50°	81°	50°	86°	52°	89°	54°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	89°	58°
Normals	76°	51°
Records	104° (1910)	31° (1897)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.05"
Normal month to date 0.55"
Year to date 4.99"
Last year to date 6.47"
Normal year to date 7.06"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	92°	62°
Normals	78°	52°
Records	100° (1934)	38° (1938)

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.25"
Year to date 3.14"
Last year to date 3.77"
Normal year to date 5.36"

SUN AND MOON

	New	First	Full	Last
Sunrise today	5:06 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	8:44 p.m.			
Moonrise today	2:07 a.m.			
Moonset today	3:21 p.m.			

June 16 June 24 July 1 July 8

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Increasingly windy today; sunny; however, clouds giving way to sun across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today; very warm. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

Western Washington: Some clouds, then sunshine today.

Eastern Washington: Plenty of sun today. Mainly clear tonight. Sunshine tomorrow.

Cascades: Nice today; plenty of sunshine, but some clouds across the north. Clear tonight.

Northern California: Clouds, then sun at the coast today; hot in central parts. Sunny elsewhere.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	64	51	pc	63	51	pc
Baker City	83	46	s	76	38	s
Bend	80	44	s	78	39	s
Brookings	71	54	s	72	51	s
Burns	85	45	s	82	39	s
Enterprise	80	45	s	75	38	s
Eugene	82	48	s	78	46	s
Heppner	87	49	s	80	43	s
Hermiston	93	58	s	85	50	s
John Day	83	48	s	78	41	s
Klamath Falls	86	48	s	85	45	s
La Grande	84	50	s	77	41	s
Meacham	78	41	s	71	35	s
Medford	90	56	s	89	52	s
Newport	58	47	s	58	46	s
North Bend	64	51	s	64	49	s
Ontario	92	61	s	87	50	s
Pasco	94	56	s	86	49	s
Pendleton	89	55	s	83	49	s
Portland	77	53	s	73	51	pc
Redmond	83	44	s	80	38	s
Salem	82	51	s	77	47	s
Spokane	85	53	s	77	47	s
Ukiah	82	43	s	76	37	s
Vancouver	77	52	s	73	49	pc
Walla Walla	91	61	s	83	54	s
Yakima	94	55	s	86	50	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	85	66	pc	85	65	pc
Hong Kong	91	84	sh	92	83	pc
Jerusalem	81	56	s	83	57	s
London	73	58	s	79	56	t
Mexico City	81	55	t	80	57	t
Moscow	66	50	c	67	50	pc
Paris	84	65	pc	81	59	t
Rome	83	64	s	82	66	pc
Seoul	90	65	s	84	65	s
Sydney	64	52	pc	65	52	pc
Tokyo	78	68	pc	75	68	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	W 8-16	WSW 7-14

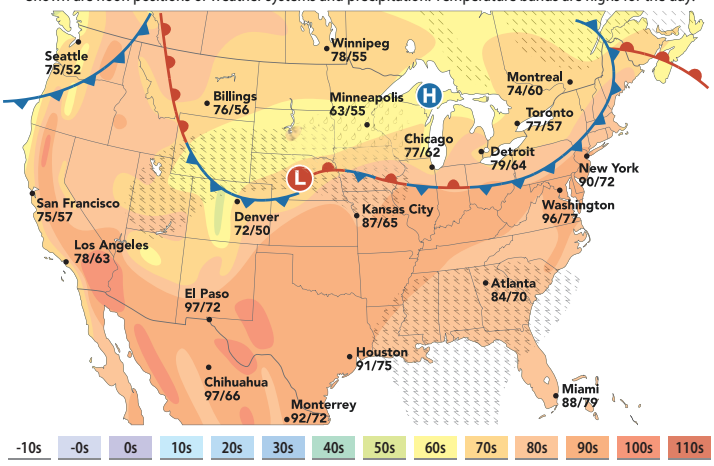
UV INDEX TODAY

2 5 7 7 5 2
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Locally drenching storms will affect the South today. Showers and storms will extend from the central Rockies to the central Plains, where flooding is a concern. Most other areas will be dry.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 101° in Vernon, Texas Low 38° in Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	85	59	pc	81	61	pc
Atlanta	84	70	t	84	70	t
Atlantic City	77	71	t	87	70	pc
Baltimore	94	71	pc	92	72	pc
Billings	76	56	s	84	57	pc
Birmingham	86	71	t	86	70	t
Boise	91	59	s	87	54	s
Boston	86	62	pc	83	63	pc
Charleston, SC	87	73	t	90	73	t
Charleston, WV	92	67	pc	87	68	pc
Chicago	77	62	t	79	56	t
Cleveland	79	66	pc	88	67	pc
Dallas	93	72	pc	90	71	pc
Denver	72	50	t	62	50	t
Detroit	79	64	pc	86	64	t
El Paso	97	72	pc	97	70	pc
Fairbanks	59	43	sh	61	45	pc
Fargo	78	52	c	81	57	pc
Honolulu	87	72	pc	87	72	pc
Houston	91	75	t	88	74	t
Indianapolis	91	70	pc	87	70	t
Jacksonville	86	68	t	91	70	pc
Kansas City	87	65	t	75	63	t
Las Vegas	95	77	pc	98	78	pc
Little Rock	92	75	t	91	73	t
Los Angeles	78	63	pc	78	63	pc
Louisville	93	73	pc	86	72	t
Memphis	91	74	t	88	73	t
Miami	88	79	t	89	79	t
Millwaukee	68	54	t	72	53	r
Minneapolis	63	55	r	74	58	pc
Nashville	91	71	t	85	69	t
New Orleans	86	74	t	83	75	t
New York City	90	72	pc	84	74	pc
Oklahoma City	92	72	pc	86	68	t
Omaha	82					