

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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The joint trade and economic development committee of the legislature heard several weeks ago about barriers to economic development in Oregon placed by the rules and regulations of state agencies. The members of the committee, including myself, heard one estimate of \$1 billion in potential job-generating projects that are held up in the state's permit process. The estimate came from a Portland businessman who has been trying to get the needed permits to build an industrial complex on the Willamette River.

Now that same committee is considering a measure which would go a long way toward clearing up the slow pace of bureaucracy. Senate Bill 381 would require agencies to adopt rules in relation to laws passed by the legislature, then those rules would be reviewed by a joint legislative counsel committee. The administrative rules adopted by agencies could be reviewed by the full legislature also.

We do not have a review process like this in Oregon. Alaska and Wisconsin have enacted similar laws, and have found that they have worked in speeding up the governmental process.

With this review process in effect, I believe that laws will be drafted with more thought, and the rules and regulations resulting from those laws will be better for all concerned. We need this legislation in Oregon, and it has my full support.

The senate agriculture and natural resources committee has now heard more than 15 hours of testimony on Senate Bill 311, the open field burning extension measure. In addition, the committee is now beginning the extensive process of work session review of the measure, which would allow an indefinite extension of the open burning ban if it is passed as drafted.

After attending all of the hearings on this bill, I believe it won't be too long before substantial recommendations — in bill form — come out of the committee. We have heard many arguments both for and against the controversial burning. If there is one thing that is certain in all of this, the decision made by the committee will be based on a vast amount of information about field burning. This will not be an emotional vote by the committee members, it will be an intelligent, well-considered judgement.

I am certain that the committee will not accept SB311 in its present form.

What will be done with the issue, however, is still up in the air. I think a two to four year extension of the burning deadline will result from the process in the senate committee. The eventual outcome of the field burning issue — on the senate floor, and the house floor and the governor's desk — is anyone's guess.

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Oregon has a proud history when it comes to election laws. In line with this tradition, the 1975 legislature is considering dozens of bills, both minor and major, aimed at keeping our election laws viable.

Perhaps the most sweeping piece of legislation, in terms of viable impact, is the amended version of House Bill 2022.

Under one provision, the full text of each ballot measure would no longer be printed in the Oregon Voters Pamphlet, saving the state an estimated \$100,000. However, voters would be told how to go about obtaining printed copies, and the full text would be published in major-circulation newspapers in the appropriate jurisdiction.

Another provision would allow for a more flexible format — possibly an increase in page size and the placement of more than one candidate on a page. Additional savings would be realized through competitive bidding by private printers.

Material on city and county candidates and measures, delegates to national party conventions, and national committee-men and committeewomen would no longer be published in the state pamphlet. This would cut down on the number of pages required, saving about \$120,000.

Information on all candidates would be included in a single edition, eliminating the expense of preparing and printing separate primary election pamphlets for Democrats, Republicans and Inde-

pendents. For the May, 1974 primary, 52 separate editions were distributed — including seven to registered Independents. A total of 24 had to be prepared for that year's general election.

Present law dealing with distribution would be changed to require the mailing of copies to every residential address in Oregon, rather than to registered voters individually. This provision not only would assure that all voters receive the pamphlet but would result in net savings of about \$40,000.

A new measure being developed by the elections committee sets forth a procedure which would enable county clerks to maintain current lists of registered voters. This

change would save the state approximately \$40,000 over the biennium.

The proposed legislation also would permit county clerks to canvass for voter registration, and permit voter registration by mail.

House Bill 2519 would make it possible for voters to register at the polls on election day, subject to challenge. This measure is designed to stimulate voter turnout, which has decreased in recent years in proportion to the eligible population.

Another bill, HB 2296, would permit employees who are registered to take two-hour leaves in order to vote. HB 2189, declares the day of a general election a state holiday.

HB 2020 would move the primary election date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, and would establish a separate presidential primary every four years. House Joint Resolution 5

would amend the Oregon Constitution, upon voter approval, to allow counties and cities to hold elections on a uniform date set by law rather than in conjunction with biennial primary and general elections.

Conversely, HB 2192 would attach school board nomination or election dates to statewide primary or general elections.

Conversely, HB 2191 would attach school board nomination or election dates to statewide primary or general elections.

HJR 10 would amend the Oregon Constitution, upon voter approval, to change the age requirement for membership in the legislative assembly from 21 to 18, permitting registered voters between

those ages to seek office. This measure was passed by the house on Feb. 28 and sent to the senate.

HB 2265 would require candidates to state their party affiliations in political advertisements.

HB 2214 would authorize precinct committeemen and committeewomen to serve as official registrars under the same conditions as a notary public.

On the senate side, a measure has been introduced to create an ethical campaign practices commission, appointed by the governor, which would act as the chief agency for the review and investigation of election law violations. Such functions are now in the hands of the secretary

of state. In addition, SB 111 calls for complaints and evidence to be forwarded to district attorneys, rather than to the state's attorney general. On a complaint received within 30 days of an election, the appropriate district attorney would be instructed to present his case to the local grand jury within five days.

Another senate measure, SB 110, would require a re-vote on a successful measure if proponents are found guilty of making false statements of ma-

terial fact. These measures are now being given their legislative "day in court." It remains to be seen which ones eventually will be woven into the fabric of Oregon's elections system.

If you have any questions concerning legislative problems, please contact me at 107K Capitol Bldg., Salem, Ore. 97310. My phone number is 378-8849. Information on bills or legislative matters can be obtained by calling the toll free information number 1-800-452-0290.

Worry

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Take a moment to consider the facts: Only about 70 cents of each dollar we spend goes to pay for the actual goods or service

that we get. About 30 cents of that dollar has to cover the expenses of the community where the sale is made... to pay the people who work there... to return something on the capital invested... to help support the civic facilities such as churches, schools, fire and police protection, road and street maintenance, etc.

Of course, when we spend our

money away from home we get no personal benefit whatever from the 30 per cent of it which goes for community business and social improvement.

Doesn't it follow, then, that when we give checks or money for out-of-town purchases, nearly one-third of the amount goes for something we don't get? Isn't that very much the same as discounting our checks or money?

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