

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

February 15, 2005
3:10 P.M.

Hearing Room B
Tapes 16 - 17

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Frank Shields, Chair
Sen. Bruce Starr
Sen. Joanne Verger
Sen. Vicki Walker

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Gary George, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Judith Callens, Committee Administrator
Gary Roulier, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

SB 8 – Public Hearing
SB 9 – Public Hearing
SB 10 – Public Hearing
SB 362 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 486 – Public Hearing
SB 223 – Work Session
State Accident Insurance Fund – Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 16, A		
003	Chair Shields	Opens the meeting at 3:13 and opens a public hearing on SB 8, 9, 10 and 486.
<u>SB 8, SB 9, SB 10 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
022	Judith Callens	Reviews the provisions of the bills.
051	Callens	Continues with an explanation of the bills.
055	Sen. Peter Courtney	State Senator, District 11. Presents written testimony in support of SB 8, 9 and 10 (EXHIBITS A, B, C) and testifies in support of the bills.
088	Sen. Courtney	Emphasizes the large numbers of Oregonians deployed in the present conflict.
110	Sen. Courtney	Reviews some possible improvements to SB 9. Continues with a review of SB 10 which would appropriate \$5 million to the County Veterans Services Officer program.
146	Sen. Courtney	Summarizes the provisions of SB 486, which relates to tuition waivers for dependents of Oregon National Guard soldiers killed on active duty.
186	Sen. Courtney	Notes that these bills do not cover reservists that have been deployed.
199	Sen. Walker	Asks about the concerns regarding SB 10 and moving the program to the Department of Administrative Services.
209	Sen. Courtney	Responds that is an issue that needs to be resolved.
243	Rep. Donna Nelson	State Representative, District 24. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT D) and testifies in support of SB 10.

282	Rep. Nelson	Summarizes the provisions of SB 10 and the projected total number of veterans within the state.
317	Rep. Nelson	Outlines the services provided by the county veterans' representatives.
340	Rep. Nelson	Details the program provided by the state of New Mexico for veterans through the provision of life insurance.
357	Rep. Phil Barnhardt	State Representative, District 11. Testifies in support of the bills and the need for additional recognition and services to veterans.
404	Rep. Betty Komp	State Representative, House District 22. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT E, F, G) and testifies in support of the bills.
423	Rep. Brian Boquist	State Representative, House District. Testifies in support of the bills.

TAPE 17, A

011	Rep. Boquist	Talks about the importance of the "gatekeeper," the county veterans representatives.
027	Chair Shields	Thanks the members for their testimony. Closes the public hearing on SB 8, SB 9 and SB 10 and opens a public hearing on SB 362.

SB 362 – PUBLIC HEARING

041	Sen. Kate Brown	State Senator, Senate District 21. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT H) and testifies in support of SB 362.
067	Sen. Ted Ferrioli	State Senator, Senate District 30. Testifies in support of SB 362 and explains the intent of the original legislation in the 2001 session.
107	Sen. Walker	Asks if the legislature has done anything with regards to making sure the federal government also ceases using these terms
112	Sen. Ferrioli	Suggests a letter signed by every member of the body.
124	Sen. Walker	Further suggests a letter asking that federal legislation be drafted.
135	Sen. Brown	Summarizes efforts in other states to pass similar legislation.
147	Sen. Walker	Restates the gesture of having a letter available for all members to sign on the day the bill comes onto the Senate floor.
153	Sen. Verger	Asks how many of the name changes have been accomplished.
162	Sen. Brown	Responds she is not aware of the status.
169	Sen. Ferrioli	Adds that the bill gives the legislature another opportunity to stress that the grace period is over.
176	Sen. Brown	Reviews some of the difficulties involved with the process of changing names.
191	Louie Pitt, Jr.	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Testifies in support of SB 362.
198	Olivia Wallulatum	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Sings a prayer to the committee.
234	Wallulatum	Prays for the success of the legislative body and reviews her personal history.
270	Wallulatum	Expresses her hope that the bill is passed.
307	Sen. Verger	Thanks the witness for her testimony and prayer. Asks if there is a "movement" among the tribes to choose particular terms for renaming.
324	Wallulatum	Reviews the processes and the difficulties involved.
340	Sen. Verger	Comments that in Louisiana citizens learned how to pronounce the Native American names.
353	Chair Shields	Talks about the historical naming of rivers in his home state.
373	Pitt	Thanks the committee for their work.
381	Christine Johnson	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Miss Warm Springs

		2005. Testifies in support of SB 362.
414	Chair Shields	Closes the public hearing and opens a work session on SB 362.
TAPE 16, B		
<u>SB 362 – WORK SESSION</u>		
004	Callens	Informs the committee that they have not received a fiscal impact statement for the bill.
020	Sen. B. Starr	MOTION: Moves SB 362 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 4-0-1
		AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair Shields	EXCUSED: 1 - George
		The motion CARRIES.
		SEN. BROWN & SEN. FERRIOLI will lead discussion on the floor.
030	Chair Shields	Closes the work session on SB 362 and opens a public hearing on SB 8, SB 9, SB 10 and SB 486.
<u>SB 8, SB 9, SB 10, SB 486 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
041	Jacqueline Zimmer	Director, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT I) and testifies in support of SB 10.
070	Bob Lawrence	Governor’s Commission on Senior Services. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT J) and testifies in support of SB 486.
095	Lawrence	States that the World War II and Korean veterans are entering the long-term care system in large numbers.
104	Jeff Hill	County Veterans Service Officers’ Association. Testifies in support of SB 10.
140	Chair Shields	Reviews some of the infrastructure issues with providing veteran services with the witness.
170	Sen. Verger	Agrees that she has no issue with where the funding is “housed,” only that the system deliver services.
187	Zimmer	Notes that there is a work group being formed to resolve issues.
204	Sen. Walker	Asks if there are any federal funds for the county programs.
212	Lawrence	Talks about an experimental program in Washington County to use “Title 19” funds for a match.
222	Sen. Walker	States that the federal government “sends our citizens off to war” but does not fund services for veterans.
228	Lawrence	Reviews decisions by the federal government on the use of Title 19 funds.
238	Hill	Summarizes how the county offices are funded. States that there has never been any federal funding for county veterans’ offices.
257	Sen. Walker	Expresses surprise that there is no federal funding for these offices. Notes that there is a cost savings for the state if we can get federal funding for these veterans’ services.
271	Rep. Brad Witt	State Representative, District 31. Testifies in support of SB 10 and reviews the case load for the county veterans’ office in Columbia County.
316	Rep. Witt	Notes that the funding for these offices is “close to an insult.”
357	H.A. MacDonald	Testifies in support of the bills. Stresses that all veterans should be treated alike.
TAPE 17, B		
001	Val Conley	Veterans’ Services Division Administrator, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT K) and testifies that the present system should be utilized for disbursement of funds.

054	Bill Fink	Administrator, Department of Administrative Services Operations Division. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT L) and testifies in opposition to SB 10.
064	Col. Mike Caldwell	Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department. Testifies that the department is neutral on SB 8 and suggests some amendments.
097	Caldwell	Notes that there are no federal educational funds for surviving spouses.
	Jerry Ryan	Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Submits written testimony in support of SB 8 (EXHIBIT M).
	Jerry Ryan	Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Submits written testimony in support of SB 9 (EXHIBIT N).
	Jerry Ryan	Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Submits written testimony in support of SB 10 (EXHIBIT O).
	Sen. Peter Courtney	Submits written testimony in support of SB 486 (EXHIBIT P).
	Rep. Komp	Submits written testimony in support of SB 486 (EXHIBIT Q).
104	Chair Shields	Closes the public hearing and opens a work session on SB 223.
<u>SB 223 – WORK SESSION</u>		
113	Sen. B. Starr	MOTION: Moves SB 223 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 4-0-1
		AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
		EXCUSED: 1 - George
	Chair Shields	The motion CARRIES.
		SEN. SHIELDS will lead discussion on the floor.
129	Chair shields	Closes the work session and opens an informational meeting on the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation (SAIF).
<u>STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE FUND CORPORATION – INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u>		
137	Brenda Rocklin	Interim President, SAIF. Presents a report entitled “Review of SAIF Corporation,” dated February 15, 2005 (EXHIBIT R) and states that the report addresses some of the work done within the past six months.
177	Rocklin	Reviews the focus, which include an emphasis on public records.
199	Rocklin	Summarizes the four specific areas outlined in the executive summary of the report.
240	Rocklin	Outlines the process in place to respond to public record requests. Adds that the second major area of focus is on contracts.
280	Rocklin	Notes that the third area of focus is on the diversity of SAIF’s workforce.
308	Sen. Walker	Comments that the plan for more diversity could be shared with the Governor’s office on executive appointments.
317	Rocklin	Talks about the importance of creating more transparency in SAIF’s operations.
337	Sen. Verger	Thanks the witness for the trust created by her personal integrity.
353	Sen. Walker	Speaks to a fraud referral on page 28 of the report (EXHIBIT R) that she wants to address.
399	Chair Shields	Closes the informational meeting and adjourns the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **SB 8, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 3 pp**
- B. **SB 9, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 3 pp**
- C. **SB 10, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 3 pp**
- D. **SB 10, written testimony, Rep. Donna Nelson, 1 pp**
- E. **SB 8, written testimony, Rep. Betty Komp, 1 pp**
- F. **SB 9, written testimony, Rep. Betty Komp, 1 pp**
- G. **SB 10, written testimony, Rep. Betty Komp, 1 pp**
- H. **SB 362, written testimony, Sen. Kate Brown, 1 pp**
 - I. **SB 10, written testimony, Jacqueline Zimmer, 1 pp**
 - J. **SB 10, written testimony, Bob Lawrence, 1 pp**
- K. **SB 10, written testimony, Val Conley, 5 pp**
- L. **SB 10, written testimony, Bill Fink, 2 pp**
- M. **SB 8, written testimony, Jerry Ryan, 1 pp**
- N. **SB 9, written testimony, Jerry Ryan, 1 pp**
- O. **SB 10, written testimony, Jerry Ryan, 1 pp**
- P. **SB 486, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 3 pp**
- Q. **SB 486, written testimony, Rep. Betty Komp, 1 pp**
- R. **State Accident Insurance Fund, report, Brenda Rocklin, 251 pp**