

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

March 3, 2003
1:00 PM

Hearing Room B
Tapes 19 - 20

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair**
 Sen. Bill Morrisette, Vice-Chair
 Sen. Kate Brown
 Sen. Ginny Burdick
 Sen. Bev Clarno
 Sen. Charles Starr

STAFF PRESENT: **Marjorie Taylor, Administrator**
 Saranelle Allen, Committee Assistant
 Annetta Mullins, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **SB 9 – Public Hearing**

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.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Tape 19, A		
005	Chair Fisher	Opens meeting at 1:04 p.m. Opens a public hearing on SB 9.
<u>SB 9 – PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
007	Marjorie Taylor	Administrator. Explains SB 9.
008	Sen. Peter Courtney	Senate District 11. Testifies in support of SB 9 (EXHIBIT A). States that the provisions of SB 9 would apply only to state employees. Calls attention to the letter from Paul Evans (EXHIBIT A, page 2).
046	General Alex Burgin	Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard. Testifies in support of SB 9. Agrees there are 39 employees who have been called up for duty. Explains that previously employees have been taken off the health insurance plans. Proposes amendment for employees who might be called to state active duty for thirty days or more.
082	Col. Michael Caldwell	Deputy Director of the Military Department. Explains they have been working with DAS for two to three years to accommodate some of the circumstances they run into in cases of state and federal active duty. Explains situations where families have been left without coverage.
110	Sen. Brown	Asks why this could not be mandated for state agencies.
	Sen. Courtney	Responds that it could be mandated if the committee wishes.
122	Sen. Clarno	States the language would allow the passing of this bill.
	Sen. Courtney	Comments that he does not believe this costs anything because they are already on the payroll.
	Sen. Morrisette	Comments he would like to look at adding language.
144	Sen. Burdick	Asks if the number of employees is expected to increase.
	Burgin	Comments on uncertainty of future military duty; would not expect more than 60 around the state at any one time. Comments on history of service and timeframes of possible duty by state employees.
178	Sen. Burdick	Asks if life insurance coverage is continued.

	Caldwell	Explains that the military has life insurance coverage. Comments on variables in life insurance coverage, and costs of health insurance to families.
290	Burgin	Comments on accommodating employees to allow continued insurance coverage.
245	Sen. Brown Sen. Courtney	Comments on attempts of person to enter the military. Comments on firefighters being sent home because of insurance coverage issues, and that he did not know about that situation when he requested drafting of the bill.
271	Sen. Morrisette	Comments that the least the state can do is pay the insurance because of the loss to the family.
	Burgin	Comments on rank and pay, and acknowledges the possibility of difference in pay and loss of insurance coverage.
294	Sen. Clarno	Comments on sensibility of the bill.
313	Shelli Honeywell	Sr. Human Resource Analyst, DAS. Comments that if the insurance coverage were mandated, DAS would need to calculate the costs.
	Honeywell	Comments on filling positions in case of military leave.
	Chair Fisher	Asks if the employee who served military duty is put back in with all the former benefits.
354	Honeywell Chair Fisher	Responds affirmatively. Asks if they are brought back into health care program as if they had not left.
	Honeywell	Explains the employees would be covered as if they had not left.
	Sen. Brown	Asks if military leave is treated differently than family leave.
	Honeywell	Yes, it is treated differently.
	Sen. Burdick	Asks what happens to the status of life insurance for the employee who leaves for military duty.
	Honeywell	Explains that life insurance is continued, depending on payment of the premiums.
	Sen. Burdick	Asks if health coverage works the same.
419	Honeywell Chair Fisher Honeywell	Comments that a COBRA privilege could be implemented. Ask about costs for 39 employees. Comments it would depend on the coverage the employee had chosen.
TAPE 20, A		
014	Chair Fisher	Asks if this is only for state employees, or is the reference to ORS strictly for state employees.
	Honeywell	ORS 408 refers to public officers and public employees. The language for being called up is 399.
034	Chair Fisher Caldwell	Clarifies coverage that would be provided by SB 9. Explains procedures for state and federal call-ups for military duty. States they may look for another solution to ORS 399.
066	Honeywell	Comments on state employees being on active duty.
075	Caldwell Chair Fisher	Comments on additional leave for guard duty. Asks what happens to the salaries when the employee goes on state active duty
.	Caldwell Caldwell	Explains pay structure for state duty. Responds there is discussion at the federal level and does not expect anything to happen until later.
	Chair Fisher	Comments on request for amendments to SB 9.
	Taylor	Clarifies amendments to be requested.
	Sen. Brown	Suggests an amendment to be made mandatory.

130	Chair Fisher	Asks that the two amendments be independent.
	Chair Fisher	Closes the public hearing on SB 9 and adjourns meeting at 1:40 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – SB 9, written testimony, Senator Peter Courtney, 3 pp.

B – SB9, written testimony, General Alex Burgin, 1 p.