

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
AND TECHNOLOGY

February 26, 1999 Hearing Room C

8:30 a.m. Tapes 9 - 10

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Verne Duncan, Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair

Sen. David Nelson

STAFF PRESENT: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator

Patrick Brennan, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 585 Public Hearing and Work Session

Oregon Military Department Presentation: Y2K

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 9, A		
003	Chair Duncan	Calls meeting to order at 8:37. Opens a public hearing on SB 585.
<u>SB 585 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
013	Rep. Mark Simmons	Representative, District 58. Testifies in support of SB 585. Says that distance learning offers exciting opportunities for education in the state of Oregon. Says that it is extremely important to get quality education out to rural areas of the state. States that he has driven from his home in Elgin to Pendleton to take college courses.
031	Chair Duncan	Asks how long it takes to commute from Elgin to Pendleton.

033	Simmons	Replies that the drive is 90 minutes each way, so that a 3 hour evening class requires 6 hours in a single evening. Says that inclement weather adds even more time to commutes. Says that it would be far more convenient to be able to take courses through distance learning. Says that the ability for rural areas to share in the benefits of the Willamette valley would help to mitigate the sense that there are "two Oregons" and bring the state together.
063	Sen. Courtney	Asks if only Clatsop Community College and Blue Mountain Community College are to be included in the program set up by the bill.
066	Sen. Nelson	States that there are groups at those two colleges watching and listening to the hearing.
070	Chair Duncan	Asks the Committee Administrator for a list of who will be testifying via video link.
071	Marjorie Taylor	Committee Administrator. States that there will be testimony from students and faculty at Clatsop and Blue Mountain Community Colleges via the video link.
074	Sen. Courtney	States that the bill is a comprehensive bill for the entire Oregon community college system.
076	Rep. Simmons	Says that the program will reach to all of the smaller towns throughout the state.
078	Sen. Courtney	Asks how many communities currently have the hardware necessary to be linked.
080	Rep. Simmons	Replies that he is not sure exactly how many are currently linked, but that there are several public access computers distribute throughout the state.
103	Sen. Joan Dukes	State Senator, District 1. Discusses the "Structure of Intellect" project, which is designed to find out how kids learn.
116	Bill Brock	Former United States Senator; Former United States Secretary of Labor. States that there is no subject more important than human development. Says that it is important to nurture and enhance the skills that an education provides. Says that Oregon is playing a leadership role in children's issues for the nation.
130	Sen. Nelson	Asks Mr. Brock how important he feels technology is for education.
133	Brock	States that technology gives teachers many tools to work with. Says that children relate well to technology. Says that the only danger is over-reliance upon technology, as there is no replacement for good teachers. Says that the technology provided for in SB 585 would allow great teachers to reach many more students.

145	Sen. Nelson	Asks Mr. Brock if he sees any problems in overcoming Oregon's challenging geographical obstacles.
151	Brock	Replies that there are pockets of small communities that can get lost. Says that there are inner city communities that are being lost as well. Says that the essence of education must be to focus on the individual child. Says that if problems can be addressed before troubles become too large many social problems can be overcome. Says that one of the problems with technology is that it tends to lead to "mass produced" education.
186	Tamara Dykeman	Representative, Oregon Community Colleges Association (OCCA). Testifies in support of SB 585 (EXHIBIT A). Says that distance learning reaches students far away from college campuses. Says that some students are too busy to attend classes or have physical difficulties that restrict their ability to attend. States that there were funds delegated during the Interim which provided for online courses and training for teachers. Says that there are a variety of online courses available statewide.
210	Dykeman	Discusses the different forms of distance education. States that the largest form of distance education is television courses. Says that there has been a substantial increase in computer ownership and internet access in Oregon, which has led to increased requests for internet classes. Says that the growth of distance learning courses has far outpaced that of traditional classes.
253	Diane Walton	Representative, Office of Community College Services (OCCS). Testifies in support of SB 585 (EXHIBITS B, C). Describes the funding for the program. States that there is a need for all parts of the program to be implemented.
290	Diana Hammon (via video link)	Coordinator, Distance Learning Program, Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC). Testifies in support of SB 585. Says that distance education offers the opportunity to accommodate alternative lifestyles to that of the traditional student. Says that distance learning has changed the lives of students.
340	Hammon	Reads letters from students expressing gratitude for the distance education courses at BMCC.
TAPE 10, A		
030	Chair Duncan	Says that there are benefits to being able to solicit testimony through the video link.
040	Cindy Calhoun (via video link)	Confederated Tribes, Umatilla Reservation. Testifies in support of SB 585. States that the Confederated Tribes face the same difficulties as other rural areas throughout the state. Says that distance learning can offer tribal members the opportunity to further their education.
083	John Sneed	Director of Distance Learning, Portland Community College (PCC). Testifies in support of SB 585. Says that community colleges have been developing the plan embodied within SB 585 for two years and that Oregon has been a model for the

		efforts of other state college systems. Says that distance learning breaks down the traditional boundaries to learning. Says that funds are necessary to support complete degree programs and provide the necessary software and hardware. Says that other services and support programs can be provided through distance learning. Says that there is a need for coordination between the 18 colleges in the system.
160	Dave Phillips (via video link)	Vice President of Instructional Programs and Student Services, Clatsop Community College (CCC). Testifies in support of SB 585. Describes the area served by CCC. Says that technology has allowed students not only to take courses at CCC but to comment on the distance learning program.
177	Kristin Muling (via video link)	Representative, CCC. Reads some student testimonials in support of distance education.
203	Phillips	States that CCC works in conjunction with other community colleges through the distance learning program. Describes the ways that distance education can assist in the coordination of community college programs.
234	Bonnie Allan (via video link)	Director, Learning Resource Center, CCC. Testifies in support of SB 585. Discusses the benefits of distance learning programs to libraries and research. States that students would be able to peruse card catalogs for the state system of higher education, select materials, and have those materials delivered to their home or nearest library. States that 4 out of 6 students in Clatsop County do not have local library access. Says that SB 585 would allow all students access to library materials.
273	Chair Duncan	Says that in the future the technology that has allowed the representatives from BMCC and CCC to testify today may be used regularly for testifying before legislative committees.
278	Sen. Nelson	Asks Mr. Sneed what barriers in urban settings can be overcome by distance learning.
286	Sneed	Replies that the major concern with regards to the inner city students is time. States that many inner city students have jobs or families that place restraints on their ability to attend regularly scheduled classes. Says that providing distance learning access to inner cities may be able to assist students in furthering their education. Says that there is the potential for establishing community access centers in certain areas.
306	Sen. Nelson	Asks if the programs would be directed primarily towards community access centers or towards individual homes.
314	Sneed	Replies that both would be targeted but that community centers would allow those without computers or sufficient equipment to participate.
323	Diane Watson	Dean of Student Services, Linn-Benton Community College. Testifies in support

		<p>of SB 585 (EXHIBIT D). Discusses disability services issues. Says that federal laws require that there be equal access to persons with disabilities. Says that SB 585 would help to insure that colleges offer equality of access and that distance learning in Oregon complies to disability laws. Discusses recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Disability Services for the Distance Learning Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money is needed to create or reprogram web pages to allow accessibility by those with disabilities such as blindness or deafness • Equipment is needed for community access centers to accommodate broad access • Funding for the installation and training in regards to the special access equipment
392	Sen. Nelson	Asks how sight impaired people would be able to use distance learning technology.
405	Nancy Hart	Disability Services Coordinator, Linn-Benton Community College. States that there is adaptive software that "voices" visual material for the visually impaired. States that the software causes compatibility difficulties which can be overcome. Discusses equipment for those with cognitive disabilities. Says that there is a recognition that some equipment may become outdated before it is implemented, which could be mitigated by sharing between campuses and locations.
TAPE 9, B		
035	Chair Duncan	Asks for the cost of the equipment necessary for having a three-way meeting such as the one demonstrated during the hearing.
042	Steve Nelson	Video and Online Services, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Information Resources Management Division (IRMD). Thanks Sen. Nelson for his leadership in regards to distance education. States that communication between locations is via satellite, which can be slightly disrupted by radar detectors. Says that inter-connections between locations become more prevalent every day.
065	Sen. Nelson	States that the cost of the system is about \$12,000 on an experimental basis.
068	Colonel Mike Caldwell	Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department (OMD). Says that the OMD is involved with a program put out by the National Guard which is similar to the teleconferencing technology on display for the committee. States that the OMD supports the proliferation of the technology. Says that the National Guard's network continues to grow as more money is allocated by Congress.
095	Sen. Nelson	Asks Ms. Walton for a description of the coordination between government entities currently developing telecommunication technology.
106	Walton	Says that there has been "an explosion of interest" in telecommunications during the past year. Says that business, federal, and state government have all been developing network capabilities. Says that there is much work to be done to map

		the networks.
130	Ben Boswell	Eastern Oregon University. States that he has been involved in the development of teacher education. Says that there will soon be virtual meetings and coordination efforts. States that technology could be beneficial to the preparation of teachers in rural Oregon.
170	Sen. Nelson	Says that telecommunications is a potential tool for overcoming the travel restrictions of Eastern Oregon.
177	Boswell	States that there is an opportunity to benefit counties through the implementation of community college programs utilizing distance education.
189	Chair Duncan	Closes the public hearing on SB 585 and opens a work session on SB 585.
<u>SB 585 WORK SESSION</u>		
197	Sen. Nelson	MOTION: Moves SB 585 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation and BE REFERRED to the Committee on Ways and Means.
201		VOTE: 3-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair Duncan	The motion CARRIES.
208	Chair Duncan	Closes the work session on SB 585.
<u>OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: Y2K</u>		
215	Brigadier General Alexander Burgin	Adjutant General-Designee, National Guard. Discusses the information services of the Oregon Military Department (EXHIBIT E). Says that the readiness of the OMD information systems is provided for by DAS. Says that the information system will be Y2K ready by the deadline. Says that non-compliant imbedded chips have been identified and that replacements or backup procedures are in place. Discusses the readiness of Federal military systems. States that there will be 94% compliance with regards to Y2K by the end of March 1999, with full compliance by the end of the year.
258	Burgin	Discusses three levels of contingency planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for existing business operation

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial mobilization • Full mobilization
265	Chair Duncan	Asks what types of contingencies may require full mobilization.
270	Burgin	Replies that the uncertainty regarding potential problems resulting from Y2K makes it difficult to prepare precise plans. States that the primary concerns are the same as those related to major natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which cause problems such as loss of critical services. Says that the National Guard has contingency plans for natural disasters with regards to loss of critical services. Says that there is little chance that the National Guard will be fully federalized
318	Burgin	States that the National Guard will be monitoring the key dates when problems may arise before January 1, 2000. States that internal and external threat assessments have been completed and that there has been disaster preparedness training. Says that there are currently plans to recall all Guard members in the event of a loss of communication. Says that there will be two staff at every armory, 24 hours a day, from December 31, 1999 until January 7, 2000.
350	Burgin	Discusses the numbers of Guardsmen and their functions in crisis situations. Says that the emergency response teams can provide support and backup for most essential emergency systems.
376	Chair Duncan	Asks if there has been any consideration given to the possibility of "opportunists" taking advantage of a panic situation.
383	Burgin	Replies that it is a national concern. Says that there are states that have problems with "wackos" who may use a disruption of services to further a political agenda. Says that there are international concerns as well, which require prudent preparation.
TAPE 10, B		
005	Chair Duncan	Asks if there has been preparation for the possibility of federalization and mobilization of the Guard Reserve.
010	Burgin	Replies that there has been preparation for assistance to locals. Says that there would not likely be total federalization of the Guard in Oregon, but rather some particular units in some possible situations. Says that the Guard Reserve would be prepared to assist in local areas.
028	Colonel Mike Caldwell	Deputy Director, OMD. Says that, during the floods across the nation in 1996, there was no federalization of the Guard despite the widespread disaster. Says that the primary duty of the Guard is support of the state under the direction of the Governor.
038	Burgin	Says that the Y2K situation offers the opportunity to discover the true

		capabilities of the National Guard. Discusses plans for the possible use of giant power generators during any Y2K incidents.
074	Sen. Nelson	Asks what the response time is for mobilization of the Guard in the event of natural disasters.
076	Burgin	Replies that the Guard mobilized in Los Angeles in response to the 1993 riots in less than one hour. States that a total failure of communication systems would increase the response time. Says that Guard members are trained to call in or report for duty in the event of a disaster.
095	Caldwell	Says that currently the Guard plans to have an automatic recall in the event of a loss of communication due to Y2K-related problems. Says that there are possible plans for a full recall on New Years Eve 1999.
115	Chair Duncan	Adjourns the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Patrick Brennan, Marjorie Taylor,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 585, testimony, Tamara Dykeman, 29 pp.

B ñ SB 585, testimony, Diane Walton, 1 p.

C ñ SB 585, CD, Diane Walton, 3 pp.

D ñ SB 585, testimony, Diane Watson, 3 pp.

E ñ Oregon Military Department, Alexander Burgin, 8 pp.