

The Legislature is beginning to pick up the pace as the fourth week of the session comes to a close. There is serious movement now to meet the June 30 adjournment target. This last week saw the first deadline of session come and go. All bill drafting requests from legislators had to be submitted by last Monday, January 29. We expect to see many more bills introduced in the next several weeks.

In the meantime, the first major piece of legislation supported by the Governor made it out of the Senate Education and Revenue Committee on Thursday on a party line vote. SB 426 creates the Educators Benefits Board, a mandatory health insurance pool for school districts. Community colleges have the option of joining the pool. The OCCA Board took a position opposing the bill due to concern about the future viability of the current OSBA insurance pool, in which a majority of community colleges participate, and the language in the bill taking away a local community college board's ability to define eligible employees if they were to participate in the new pool. The cost implications to community colleges as a result would be unsustainable. Lane Community College President, Mary Spilde, testified before the committee about the innovative project LCC has embarked upon to control health insurance costs and promote wellness. The bill now moves to the Ways and Means Committee.

There have been a number of bills introduced that the OCCA Legislative committee will be considering at its meeting on Monday. Those bills with links to their full text follow.

1. SB 465 (Medical marijuana in the workplace)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0465.intro.pdf>

2. SB 467 (Landscape maintenance/contractor licensing)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0467.intro.pdf>

3. SB 474 (Spending Target)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0474.intro.pdf>

4. HB 2503 (Retired Senior Volunteers)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2503.intro.pdf>

5. HB 2530 (Tax Reform - Sales, Income, Capital Gains)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2530.intro.pdf>

6. SJR 20 (Telecommunications Networks)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sjr1.dir/sjr0020.intro.pdf>

Next week the following hearings have been scheduled.

1. Reserve Fund Discussion, Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, Monday, February 5, 8:45 am, HR A

2. PERS Bills, House Business and Labor, Monday, February 5, 3:00 pm, HR D

3. CC Capital Construction, Informational Briefing, Ways and Means Education Subcommittee, Monday, February 5, 3:00 pm, HR F

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