



CAPITOL COMMENTS

*State Legislative Bulletin of the
Oregon Bankers Association*

March 23, 2007

Half-way Point Reached for the 74th Legislative Session

With the goal of ending the 2007 Oregon legislative session by June 29, which legislative leadership remains committed to, we are at the half-way point of the session. While bills are moving fast and furiously, this is generally the calm before the storm.

In the next few weeks, folks will begin to realize the end is near, and the mad dash to June 29 will begin in earnest. Fortunately, all of OBA's bills have been introduced and are working their way through the legislative dance.

OBA's bills are summarized below:

SB 447 – This legislation - adding the theft of deceased individuals' information to the crime of identity theft - has passed the Senate and is waiting assignment to a House committee.

SB 691 – This act - providing employers additional liability protection for disclosure of employee performance to other employers - is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. OBA has agreed to amend Section 2 of the bill, dealing with record retention. A hearing has been scheduled next week in the Senate.

SB 692 – This bill deals with the Transfer on Death (TOD) Security Registration Act. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 28. OBA Trust Committee Chair Stuart Allen will testify on this bill.

SB 693 – These amendments to the Uniform Trust Act are also in the Senate Judiciary Committee and scheduled for a hearing on March 28.

SB 734 – This legislation would allow Oregon's banks, in a non-bank holding company structure, to issue stock grants to officers, directors and employees. This bill had its first hearing on Monday, March 19 before the Senate Business Committee. OBA board member Steve Way of Silver Falls Bank, Portland attorney Andy Morrow, and OBA lobbyist Tim Martinez testified on the bill. The committee members appeared generally supportive of the measure. Clarifying amendments are needed for the bill, which has been rescheduled for a second hearing on Monday.

HB 2901 – This measure is the result of a year-long workgroup dealing with the collateralization of public funds. Members of the workgroup included representatives of the OBA and local governments. The process has also involved representatives of the State Treasurer's office. This

bill is now before the House Business Committee and is scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, March 28. Testifying on behalf of the OBA will be OBA Vice Chair Lark Wysham of Citizens Bank, Bridgid O'Callaghan from US Bank, and Sherman. Further amendments are needed on this bill and will be discussed at the hearing.

Oregon Establishes a Savings Account

Legislation creating Oregon's first comprehensive savings account has been signed into law by the Governor. HB 2707 establishes a "rainy day" fund, and HB 2031 provides for the initial deposit, estimated at \$290 million, into the fund by repealing the state's 2007 corporate kicker for businesses with \$5 million or more in Oregon sales. Small businesses in Oregon (\$5 million in sales or less) will retain their corporate kicker. HB 2031 would also establish a graduated minimum tax (between \$25 and \$50,000) based on a corporation's Oregon sales.

Accessing the fund will require a three-fifths vote in the legislature and only two-thirds of the fund can be withdrawn in any one biennium. The creation of the fund is also expected to have a positive impact on Oregon's bond rating.

Breastfeeding Bill on Way to House Floor

Earlier this year, OBA Human Resources Committee Chair Jill Faughender testified before the House Human Services and Women's Wellness Committee on HB 2372, which deals with employees expressing milk during the work day and would require certain accommodations for employees with this need. The OBA HR Committee met with both Senator Ginny Burdick and Representative Vicki Berger, primary supporters of this legislation, to discuss the issue and articulate the unique difficulties some bank branches may have in complying with this proposal.

As the legislation was introduced, businesses with 25 employees or more would be required to make special accommodations for those who need to express milk. Most Oregon banks have more than 25 employees bank-wide; however, many branches have only a handful of employees. Last Friday, the Committee amended the bill and sent it to the House floor. The amendments address some of our concerns.

First, all references to paid leave for this activity is eliminated. Secondly, the employee must not simply "notify" her employer. Rather, she must "provide reasonable notice to" the employer. Thirdly, rather than try to legislate appropriate exceptions for various employer groups, (i.e. banks, public safety, agricultural workers, etc.) the bill creates an advisory committee, under the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI), consisting of equal numbers of employers and employees. This committee will make a determination upon request by a particular industry or profession if the ordinary course of business of the requestor makes compliance "difficult". The committee will then submit recommendations for rules to the Labor Commissioner that address these compliance difficulties in that industry or profession.

This committee is modeled after a similarly structured committee in the workers compensation area that consists of equal numbers of management and labor. This group reviews all legislative proposals in the workers compensation area of the law and then takes a position on them. If a majority of the committee does not support the proposal, the legislation generally does not move forward. Both Governor Kitzhaber and Governor Kulongoski have honored this unwritten agreement.

It remains to be seen if this concept will work for the issue of developing rules for expressing milk in the workplace. We expect this bill will continue to receive attention when it gets to the Senate and OBA will work to ensure the piece regarding paid leave will not be put back in this bill. The OBA HR Committee will review this amended version at their April meeting.

Have You Used Bill TrackOR?

OBA offers a bill tracking system for our members this legislative session: BillTrackOR. We are pleased to offer our members access to bills we are tracking as they move through the State House and Senate. Attached are instructions for accessing this information, or simply visit the OBA website at www.oregonbankers.com and link to the instructions through the Government Relations – Members only page.

*(<http://www.billtrackor.com/billTrackOR/login.aspx>, User Name: **oba**, Password: **legislation**)*

Bankers' Day at the Capitol

We are looking forward to Bankers' Day at the Capitol! A full day of events is planned and will include individual visits with various legislators and a legislative reception at the Salem Conference Center on Thursday, April 5. Attached is a registration form you can print, fill out and return to the OBA. We are only a couple of weeks away from this event, so be sure to register today!

Thought for the Week

“Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.”
-Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

*Please Join Your
Fellow Oregon Bankers For...*

BANKERS' DAY
At the Capitol
Thursday, April 5, 2007



Oregon bankers from across the state will gather at the State Capitol in Salem to engage in a dialogue with lawmakers about the important leadership and service roles Oregon banks play in their local communities, as well as the current policy issues facing the financial services industry. Don't miss this important advocacy event for the Oregon banking community!

Tentative Schedule at a Glance:

7:30 - 8:00 am	Check-In at the Capitol Room 50 (ground floor) - Coffee Served
8:00 - Noon	Overview of Schedule & Key Issues Comments from Legislative Leadership Observe Floor Session
Noon	Box Lunches Available
12:30 - 3:30 pm	Individual Meetings with Legislators (appointments made by OBA) Observe Committee Hearings as Schedule Permits
3:30 pm	Optional Tour of the Capitol
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Legislative Reception Salem Conference Center, 200 Commercial Street SE - 2 nd Level

REGISTRATION FORM (fax to OBA at 503-581-8714 or mail to OBA, PO Box 13429, Salem, OR 97309)

NAME _____ TITLE _____

BANK _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

The OBA will be making afternoon appointments with all available Oregon legislators.
Would you like to meet with any specific legislators on Bankers' Day?

Questions? Contact the OBA staff at 503-581-3522 or e-mail ayoung@oregonbankers.com



