



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

Joint committee of lawmakers tries to wrap its head around new pot laws

by Craig Loughridge
Assistant Director for Governmental Affairs

Taxes and transportation aren't the only big things taking up time in the legislature. Regulating how marijuana is grown, processed and distributed has been among popular topics for legislators since Oregon voters approved legalizing the drug in 2014.

This year has been little different. The Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation (I didn't make up that name) has taken on nearly 30 bills on topics ranging from pot tax rebates for Indian tribes, to which agency should regulate pot, to where pot can be sold, and more. That's more bills than any other joint committee, except the Ways and Means committee.

Whether from lack of merit or for other reasons, most of the bills have so far sputtered after reaching the committee. Fewer than a third have gained committee approval and been sent to a vote in the Senate or House. The remaining bills have passed in at least one of those bodies, and five bills have been signed by the governor and become law.

Among notable bills appearing to remain active, but not yet voted on, is Senate Bill 307. Committee members have held three hearings on the bill, once in February and twice in May. The bill would allow "cannabis lounges," as well as use and sale of marijuana at temporary events.

Joint committees aren't subject to the same legislative deadlines as regular House and Senate committees. This committee's bills can be put to a vote virtually any time until the last day of the session, slated to be about July 10.

Among notable bills already passed:

SB 319 – Legislators declared an emergency to



allow marijuana businesses to move closer to schools, decreasing the limit from 1,000 feet to 500 feet.

SB 863 – Prohibits marijuana retailers from recording, retaining or transferring a consumer's personally identifiable information.

Use this link to contact committee members with your views about marijuana bills:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Committees/JMR/Overview>

New Senate Bill 181A update

House leadership suddenly sent the bill back to committee Wednesday after giving it a third reading before the full House. Please keep emailing and calling legislators to voice our opposition.

Please email me if you'd like more information:
govaffairs@orange.org.