



The Capitol Granger

Weekly news from your Grange lobbyist

Senate pulls off surprise finish as anti-nonprofit bill dies in committee

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Senators last Friday pulled off something of a surprise, and closed days earlier than some Capitol watchers had expected. With the Senate closed, representatives in the House had little choice but to close too.

The closure left dead a bill that the State Grange had been fighting. Senate Bill 181 was still hung up in the House Committee on Revenue as lawmakers adjourned.

This was a big victory for the Oregon State Grange and other nonprofit charities around Oregon. It can't be emphasized enough that this win would not have happened without all of the help from Grangers everywhere, who came to the Capitol, or who attended the state convention, or sent cards or letters or emails or resolutions. Altogether, we presented a unified message to every representative in the House that SB 181 was bad policy and would have serious unintended consequences if not completely revamped.

As your representative, I also worked with an alliance of representatives from other nonprofits to further expand the Grange's influence and leverage opposition from key lawmakers. The help of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon was critical to this effort. Further, relationships built during this process could result in the Grange getting an invitation to work directly with legislators should they decide to revive the topic and rewrite the bill.

Read on for a wrap-up of other bills we followed:

Passed

HB 2012: Creates eastern Oregon economic region.

HB 2017: New taxes for transportation projects.



HB 2038: Farm-to-school program funding.

HB 2391: New taxes on hospitals & health insurance.

SB 229: Dictates election dates if people refer HB 2017 or HB 2391 to a statewide vote.

SB 1051: Deadline for affordable housing reviews.

Failed

HB 2282: Changed definition of farm use.

HB 2382: State to work with FFA to help ag students.

HB 2830: Gross receipts tax.

HB 3469: State study of government efficiency.

SB 230: State to work with FFA to help ag students.

SB 307: Allowed some public use of marijuana.

Publication change

Now that this legislative session is over, look for *The Capitol Granger* to come monthly rather than weekly. The weekly schedule will return when the House and Senate start their new session early next year.

Meanwhile, please email your comments or questions to govaffairs@orange.org. I'm also happy to arrange a visit to your grange as time permits.