

Additional Measures Vetoed by the Governor



[Press here to return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary
of Major
Legislation

Senate Bill 5523

Relating to state financial administration; appropriating money; declaring an emergency.

Governor's Veto Message (August 15, 1997):

Line Item - Children's Advocate

I am returning herewith Senate Bill 5523, with the line item in Section 1(3)(a)(I) unsigned and disapproved. This line item establishes an Emergency Fund appropriation for a legislative specialist on children and families in the Office of Legislative Counsel. The appropriation is no longer needed because the enabling legislation which created the specialist position failed to pass.

Line Item - Secondary Lands

I am returning herewith Senate Bill 5523, with the line item in Section 9 unsigned and disapproved. This line item appropriates funding to the Department of Land Conservation and Development to carry out the provisions of Senate Bill 632 to study secondary lands. The appropriation is no longer needed because the enabling legislation failed to pass.

Line Item - Marine Academy

I am returning herewith Senate Bill 5523, with the line item in Section 1(3)(a)(J) unsigned and disapproved. This line item creates an Emergency Fund appropriation for the creation of an Oregon Marine Academy to be housed aboard a former research ship obtained from the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

I applaud the efforts of Senator Jeanette Hamby and others to increase services to Oregon's young men and women who are at risk of committing criminal offenses and entering the juvenile justice system. As a state, we are doing far too little to provide the kind of educational and vocational opportunities that are necessary to reverse the increase in juvenile crime that Oregon has experienced in the past decade.

A ship-based program, however, involves high costs for operations and maintenance, and presents unique safety, security and liability issues. As a result of these concerns, and questions regarding the availability of on-going funding for operation of the program, I am reluctantly vetoing the appropriation.

House Bill 2870

Relating to racing facility activities; appropriating money; declaring an emergency.

Governor's Veto Message (August 8, 1997):

I have taken action today on a trio of bills relating to the racing industry in Oregon. I have vetoed HB 2870 but have signed HB 3009 and HB 2104.

I know there is concern about the growth of gambling in Oregon. I share that concern.

However, I believe that it is important to draw a distinction between the different types of gambling that exists in Oregon today: State Lottery, Race Tracks and Indian Casinos.

My primary focus is on the State Lottery because that is the form of gambling I can most directly affect. I will continue to oppose the expansion of Lottery products to include so-called line games. I believe these games will increase the levels of addiction in our state and the dependence of state government on lottery dollars.

I also believe that it is time for Oregonians to begin to look for ways to reduce our participation in state run gambling and start relying on more stable long term sources of finance for our education system and other essential services.

Tribal gambling has experienced the most dramatic growth in gambling in the state. But this is a right granted to the tribes under federal law. We can not forbid the tribes from gambling. We have had some success in negotiating compacts that give us more say about the ultimate size of that industry.

As I pointed out in my veto message on HB 2870 I am sympathetic to those Oregonians who are involved in the live animals racing industry.

The commercial tracks and the county and state fairs are traditional and limited forms of gambling that has existed in Oregon for over 65 years. Horse and dog racing has not been the focus of my concern about the growth of gambling in the state.

HB 3009 and HB 2104 are bills requested by the industry and the racing commission in an effort to give the industry an opportunity to regain market strength. The key to my approval of both these measures is that the Racing Commission is charged with developing a regu-

latory structure in both bills. My administration will watch and guide this new authority carefully.

I am announcing today that I have vetoed HB 2870, because of the provision of the bill that amounted to a giveaway of public funds to two commercial racetracks in Portland.

After much thought I have decided to approve HB 3009 which relates to gambling in Oregon.

HB 3009 enacts recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Gaming. It creates the new crime of Cheating and revises our theft statutes to recognize the nature of gaming today.

It also extends regulatory authority to the Department of Justice for charitable games operated by private clubs such as the Elks.

The most controversial portion of the bill is the authority for the Oregon Racing Commission to allow and regulate a Multi-jurisdictional Totalizator Hub. This challenging name is long-hand for a computer system used to record Off-Track Betting (OTB) wagers. If such a business locates in Oregon it will need to be regulated.

I am signing this for two reasons.

First the Oregon Racing Commission is simply authorized to regulate such a computer business if the business locates in Oregon. It is unclear what authority the Commission would have without the provisions of this bill.

Second the bill will allow the racing industry to explore a business opportunity that could help reverse its recent misfortunes.

Similarly I have signed HB 2104. The most controversial aspect of this bill is the authorization of "account wagering" which will allow patrons at the two major tracks to open accounts for easier wagering. This bill keeps pace with changing technology in terms of use of various cash substitutes for today's commerce.

The Commission is committed to devising rules that will erect barriers for problem gamblers and emphasize restraint in daily betting through these limits.

I do not know if these proposals will assist the race tracks in surviving these tough times. But I will see to it that the Oregon Racing Commission devises rules that stress restraint and temperance with regard to gambling.

House Bill 2585

Relating to cable system operators.

Governor's Veto Message (August 15, 1997):

I am returning HB 2585 to you disapproved and unsigned.

The Boxing and Wrestling Commission exists entirely from revenues generated from a surcharge on pay-per-view boxing and wrestling events on cable television systems. Any excess revenues go into the Children's Trust Fund.

HB 2585 would slash the budget of the Commission in half. This move would occur at a time when Oregon appears to be poised on the verge of an expansion of these sports. To drastically reduce the budget and the effectiveness of the Commission at this time is not sound policy.

As a physician I do not like these sports. But as long as we allow them to exist, I believe we must take every step possible to prevent the human suffering that can result from this kind of competition.

