

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

SB 1575 was on the floor a day early. The Uniparty suspended the Oregon Constitution to hear it early as they wanted Friday off instead of showing up at the Capitol tomorrow. Strange how absences and schedules happen but the majority failed on this bill. An eight line summary of the 11 page bill was handed out to members on the Floor. The description of the bill on the Floor by the Carrier had nothing do with the handout on the Floor. The issue appeared to be contracted engineers and professionals wanted to be held harmless for liabilities on public works projects. Seemed to focus on a city or county assuming liability for the actions of professional firms who direct public work's contractors. Completely absent was the 'contractor' position on this issue. Frankly, private contractors in my district have little good to say about the city/county side nor their hired private architects, engineers and professionals. The horror stories of the interactions of these three sides can go on for days. After the no vote, my review of the bill confirms this a very complex issue in search of a solution. Given the billions in public works and transportation projects involved in Oregon, why this bill is in the Judiciary Committee instead of Business and Transportation committees is a complete puzzle. This issues needs to be resolved in a longer session with much wider involvement. The bill died on the Floor but no doubt votes will be coerced or bought for repassage on Monday. No on SB 1575.