

Members of the House Committee on Rules:

I just realized that the -20 Amendment includes an "emergency clause," as well as the repeal of state pre-emption!

This is yet one more abuse of the emergency clause; declaring an emergency where none exists. The Oregon Constitution declares that "no act shall take effect until ninety days from the end of the session – except in case of emergency." That same Constitution also guarantees citizens the right of referendum – the right to put laws passed by the Legislature to a public vote. The issues purportedly addressed by this bill have been occurring for years – for example – the Clackamas Town Center shooting incident described in the text occurred eight (8) years ago! How does this constitute an emergency? Will an additional 90 days make any difference? That's doubtful - the emergency clause in this case is clearly intend to thwart objections to this contentious legislation by preventing The People from putting this bill to a public vote.

The Legislature should be ashamed of these tactics. Making these major changes to a bill at the 11th hour is disingenuous, sneaky, and dishonest. At the same time, you are sequestered in a building that has been closed to the public during this whole session, cutting off constituents from their right to directly engage their representatives, as well as to protest for redress of grievances. Dirty dealing, done in secret. This is unacceptable, and it must stop!

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