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- Senate Bill 611 would further limit a landlord’s ability to raise rent on a residence, lowering a cap first enacted in 2019.

In the House, lawmakers will take up a bill promoting and easing greater use of heat pumps and other green building technology Tuesday. The bill is intended to maximize federal funding opportunities for disaster relief programs, renewable energy, green infrastructure projects and more.

Rep. Khanh Pham, D-Portland, said she is relieved to see votes resume in the Senate, but said there’s risk that important initiatives will get sidelined because of the hurry.

“Now we’re seeing the damage that’s been done by the six weeks of an extended shutdown. And we can’t let that happen again,” Pham said.

Pham and Rep. David Gomberg, D-Otis, introduced a proposal Wednesday to bring Oregon’s quorum rules in line with the vast majority of states by requiring a simple majority of lawmakers to conduct business. Wagner told reporters Thursday the bill probably doesn’t have a path forward this session because there isn’t enough time to pass it, despite broad support among Democratic legislators.

-- Grant Stringer; gstringer@oregonian.com; @Stringerjourn

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By **Grant Stringer | The Oregonian/OregonLive**

Work at the state Capitol took on a furious pace Friday after top Democrats and Republicans forged a compromise to end the longest walkout in state history Thursday.

Legislators are racing to pass a backlog of bills governing state agency budgets and policies on suicide and overdose prevention, public defense, tax credits, climate change and more before the June 25 deadline for the session to end.

With enough Senate Republicans present for a quorum the second day in a row, state senators passed dozens of bills Friday morning to fund state agencies including the Oregon Health Authority, Department of Corrections and Department of Justice. The budgets were available for quick votes on the Senate floor because members of budget-crafting committees continued their work during the boycott.

Those budget bills now head to the House for final approval next week.

Senators also confirmed dozens of appointments by Gov. Tina Kotek to boards and commissions including the Port of Portland Board of Commissioners and Oregon State University Board of Trustees. They also confirmed David Gerstenfeld as the director of the Employment Department. Gerstenfeld had served as acting director since early in the pandemic.

Lawmakers will have to maintain a fast pace with long days when both chambers reconvene Tuesday. Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, said he won't require senators to work through the weekend or on the Juneteenth holiday Monday.

Top Republicans agreed to waive rules requiring that bills be read in full to speed up floor sessions as part of their compromise with Senate Democratic leaders. That agreement has to be reconfirmed each day.

Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber, D-Beaverton, and Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, said in interviews that the frenetic pace is typical for the end of a legislative session, though senators have more bills than usual to get through this year because of the walkout. They said they expect to pass the stack of policy bills and budgets without priorities falling by the wayside.

"I think we have time to spare," Dembrow said.

Ashley Kuenzi, a spokesperson for Senate Minority Leader Tim Knopp, R-Bend, did not respond to requests for comment.

Speaking on the Senate floor Thursday, Knopp resolved to finish the session in tandem with Democrats.

“It’s go time,” he said.

Senate and House Democrats announced Friday a conceptual two-year, \$172 million early childhood budget package. Its centerpiece would be a state tax credit for low-income families of up to \$1,000 per child five years old or younger, a priority for a coalition including the Oregon Center for Public Policy, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon and the Oregon Food Bank.

The proposed tax credit is scheduled for a committee discussion and vote on Tuesday.

The announcement Friday dovetailed with House Democrats’ \$1.8 billion budget proposal for the new Department of Early Learning and Care. Some Democrats and advocates had worried that the Republican boycott would leave the new agency, which is morphing from a division of the Oregon Department of Education into a freestanding department of its own, without funding when it opens July 1.

Senators will take up dozens of consequential policy bills when they reconvene Tuesday. The bills include:

- Senate Bill 337 would overhaul Oregon’s broken public defense system and create the independent Oregon Public Defense Commission.
- Senate Bill 85, originally written to curb new permits for the state’s largest animal feeding operations, requires some facility operators to submit water supply plans and tightens water quality regulations.
- Senate Bill 498 would expand estate tax exemptions for farming, fishing and forestry interests, including large ranches and timber businesses. Currently, owners of timberland and ranches can only pass \$1 million worth of such property to heirs tax-free in most circumstances. The bill is sponsored by Sen. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford, and Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena. Dembrow said he expects Democrats concerned with the bill to approve it out of “respect and sympathy for their Republican colleagues.”
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