**LOCAL**

**Some board members may quit over ethics law**

Board members: Report would invade privacy of volunteers

By MITCH ROSENQUIST

PLATTSBURGH - Residents who serve on Clinton County boards and committees are angry and upset about a proposal in the legislature to require all board members to report salaries, debts, and other financial information to the state department of ethics.

"It's a ridiculous idea," said Area 1 Legislator Richard Petters, who has been on the Youth Bureau for about seven years.

"The state does stupid things like that all the time," he added. "They want everybody to disclose everything and it's none of their business."

The state law is creating a stir among social interests to a local ethics board. It has made life easier while in the Youth Bureau, said Area 8 Legislator Jay LePage, D-Peru.

"I don't want to get off the Youth Board," LePage said. "I'm working with kids and I want to help them, but I also don't feel the state has the right to invade my privacy."

LePage said it has been difficult to keep up with all the paperwork required to disclose information. "The state wants to know everything and it's none of their business," he said.

LePage and board members say they will resign before the new law takes effect. "The Youth Board I think we should reserve judgment and see exactly what we would have to disclose," LePage said.

Chairman Rodger Brown of the Youth Bureau said he has decided to resign before the new law takes effect. "I've made my decision to resign," he said. "I don't feel the state has the right to invade my privacy." Brown, who is a member of the Youth Bureau, said the new law would be supported financially — the board members would have to pay for their own expenses.

The state law would be supported financially — the board members would have to pay for their own expenses. "If it's nothing to do with oil, I'm not going to talk," he said.

"You just wait for the news to come out and that might start over there (in the Middle East)."

The Youth Board has three members, each of whom serves for three years. They are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The board is responsible for overseeing the Department of Youth and Family Services.

Carroll Hamilton, the Youth Board member for Area 1, said he would wait to see exactly what we would have to disclose.

"I don't want to do it, but I feel it is an inconvenience. If it becomes a issue of policy, I might resign," he said.

LePage said he has nothing to hide either. "If it's up to me, I'd just as it is," he said.

The state law requires all board members to disclose information about family and business interests.

"I don't think they have to know exactly what I do in my business, but I feel it is an inconvenience," he said.

Doreen Wallard, an Area 8 Legislator, said she is not concerned about the new law. "I'm not worried about the law," she said.

Wallard said she will be one of the few to go to the event and listen to the presentation. "I'm not worried about it," she said.

"I don't think the law is going to change anything," she added.

"I think they accomplished it throw sand with shovels, hitting the bridges and hflb first."

The Youth Board has two sons in Saudi Arabia. "I doubt I would quit, but I feel it is an inconvenience. If it becomes an issue of policy, I might resign," he said.

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