



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friday, January 15, 1999

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

From: Bryce Fair & Carolyn McCoy

Highlights This Week:

Introduction of Bills Continues for Senators: While the House of Representatives concluded the introduction of bills last Friday, January 8, Oklahoma Senators still have until January 28 to continue to introduce bills. Our initial tracking list contains about 140 bills, mostly House bills. We expect this number to increase significantly as we add relevant Senate bills to the list.

New Legislative Website Provides Bill Texts: The Oklahoma Legislature has established a valuable new Internet website that provides the actual text of introduced bills. The website is located at <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/docs/billtext.html>. We encourage you to use this resource to examine any bills in which you are interested.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- January 20, 1998; Wednesday; 10:30 a.m.; Room 432A, State Capitol
House Education Committee
Agenda:
 1. Common Education Subcommittee, consideration of legislation
 2. Dr. Hans Brisch, PH.D., Chancellor State Regents for Higher Education-
Overview of Higher Education

- January 21, 1998; Thursday; 9:30 a.m.; Room 432A, State Capitol
Education Subcommittee of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee
Agenda:
 1. Commissioners of the Land Office

- January 21, 1998; Thursday; 10:30 a.m.; Room 432A, State Capitol
House Education Committee
Agenda:
 1. Dr. Roy V. Peters, Jr., State Director Oklahoma Dept. of Vocational & Technical
Education-Overview of Vo-Technical Education

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**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION**
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BILLS OF INTEREST TO HIGHER EDUCATION

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Forty-Seventh Legislature – First Session 1999
Status Reported as of January 14, 1999

SENATE BILLS

SB 2 (Monson) - HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for treatment of adults, adolescents and children with severe mental illness; permits insurers to offer such benefits through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement, contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 3 percent in premium cost. (36 §§ 6060.10, 6060.11)

SB 7 (Williams) - ROGERS UNIVERSITY. This is a shell bill relating to the Board of Regents of Rogers University. (70 § 4670)

SB 10 (Ford) - BOARD EMPLOYEES. Permits a state board or commission to employ a state employee who is an ex officio member of that board or commission and who is required by law to be a member of that entity. (74 § 4257)

SB 12 (Long) - COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN/INCOME TAX. Provides an income tax exemption for interest received from a College Savings Plan account until the taxable year that such interest is withdrawn from the account pursuant to certain guidelines. (68 § 2358)

SB 19 (Maddox) - ANSWERING MACHINES/VOICE MAIL. Requires that the primary telephone number at state agencies be answered by an agency employee during normal business hours; prohibits the use of an answering device on the primary telephone designated to receive calls from the public during normal business hours or forwarded to a telephone that is not answered by an employee; provides an exception to allow agencies to use answering devices to answer calls during other than normal business hours and calls to other numbers the agency maintains. (74 § 3306)

SB 22 (Horner) - OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM FOR TEACHER PREPARATION. Authorizes the State Regents to establish and maintain an Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program for Teacher Preparation, an incentive scholarship program to encourage the preparation of teachers, including minority teachers, in

critical shortage area for the public schools at one or more of the state's public or private higher education institutions; requires that priority consideration be given to prospective teachers from under-represented minority groups and prospective teachers who meet the same requirements as for the existing Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP); states legislative intent that the Regents create a committee comprising educators, teacher educators from the participating institutions, other professionals from critical shortage area fields and representatives of public schools and the Department of Education to recommend to the Regents further criteria for selection of participants, procedures for admission, procedures and instruments for assessing the effectiveness of the program and any other criteria or procedures deemed necessary by the Regents; requires the committee to deliver a report on the program to the Legislature by July 1 of each year. (70 § 698.3)

SB 23 (Milacek) - **CREDIT CARDS**. Prohibits State System institutions from entering into agreements for merchandising of credit cards through such institution to an enrolled student who is under age 21. (14A § 1-111)

SB 46 (Taylor) - **PROGRAM BUDGETING**. Clarifies language relating to program budgeting. (62 § 41.46)

SB 49 (Wilcoxson) - **TAX CREDIT/TUITION/FEES**. Establishes a state income tax credit for any amount paid by a teacher for tuition paid for certain college courses and fees paid for any examination required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. (68 § 2357)

HOUSE BILLS

HB 1002 (Askins/Brown) - **RETIREMENT/TOBACCO SETTLEMENT**. Creates a Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund; requires that one-third of 95 percent of trust fund earnings shall be transferred to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement (OTRS) Fund until such transfers amount to \$1 billion, with the remainder to be transferred to the Tobacco Settlement Special Cash Fund. (37 §§ 600.13, 600.14)

HB 1005 (Adair) - **RETIREMENT/REAUTHORIZATION**. Deletes requirement for annual reauthorization of retirement benefits for certain members of OTRS. (70 § 17-116.13)

HB 1006 (Roberts) - **RETIREMENT/REAUTHORIZATION**. Deletes requirement for annual reauthorization of retirement benefits for certain members of OTRS. (70 § 17-116.13)

HB 1007 (Leonard Sullivan) - **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS/GIFTS**. Declares legislative intent that no State System institution shall provide the governor, legislators or any government officer with anything of value free of charge. (70 § 3330)

HB 1015 (Adair) - **STATE BOARD EMPLOYEES**. This is a shell bill relating to language prohibiting state boards or commissions from employing former members. (74 § 4257)

HB 1019 (Erwin) - **TEACHER PREPARATION COMMISSION**. Establishes a July 1, 2000, termination date for the Commission for Teacher Preparation. (70 § 6-199)

HB 1036 (John Sullivan) - **RETIREMENT/TOBACCO SETTLEMENT**. Requires that all monies received by Oklahoma pursuant to any tobacco lawsuit settlement shall be allocated to the Teachers' Retirement System (OTRS). (70 § 17-116.15)

HB 1040 (Mitchell) - **RETIREMENT/TOBACCO SETTLEMENT**. Creates a Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund; requires that the trust fund be managed by a board of trustees; provides for investment of funds; creates the Tobacco Settlement Special Cash Fund; requires that one-third of 95 percent of trust fund earnings shall be transferred to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement Fund until such transfers amount to \$1 billion, with the remainder to be transferred to the Tobacco Settlement Special Cash Fund. (37 §§ 600.13, 600.14)

HB 1046 (Dank) - **CHARTER SCHOOLS**. Creates the Charter Schools Act; allows a public school, public body, public or private college or university, private person or private organization to establish a charter school under contract; provides for acceptance or rejection of sponsorship by board of education; specifies requirements for contracts for charter schools; requires that charter schools be nonsectarian; provides for curriculum and testing; prohibits charging of tuition; limits terms of contracts to five years; specifies admission requirements; authorizes the designation of specific geographic area where students would reside; requires the provision of transportation; creates a "Charter Schools Stimulus Fund". (70 §§ 3-130/142)

HB 1056 (Wells) - **RAFFLES**. Authorizes nonprofit organizations, student groups and parent-teacher groups to conduct raffles for charitable purposes or to help raise funds for a school. (21 § 1051)

HB 1058 (Clay Pope) - **TAX CREDIT/AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS**. Provides an income tax credit for producers of agricultural commodities using new or modified agricultural production or marketing methods demonstrated by or acquired from an accredited agricultural college or university, adult agricultural education program provided by a state secondary school or state agricultural producing or farming association; limits such credit to \$500, to be allowed in the taxable year in which the new or modified production or marketing method was used by the producer; requires the producer to furnish satisfactory documented proof that the production or method was obtained from an accredited agricultural college or university, etc., and that the method was used in the operation of the agricultural producer; permits unused credit to be carried forward for a maximum five years. (68 § 2357.28)

HB 1063 (Benson/Haney) - **ENDOWMENT FUND**. Permits adjustments by a trustee who is a beneficiary of a trust, if the trustee is a tax-exempt charitable, religious or educational organization and, as a beneficiary, will hold the beneficial interest as an institutional endowment fund for the benefit of one or more tax-exempt charitable, religious or educational organizations. (60 § 175.104)

HB 1069 (Thomas) - **MURRAY STATE COLLEGE**. Updates name of Murray State College, deleting "of Technology". (70 § 3407.2)

HB 1072 (Thornbrugh) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS**. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for severe mental illness; allows such benefits be provided through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement, contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 3 percent in premium cost. (36 §§ 6060.10, 6060.11)

HB 1086 (Worthen) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. This is a shell bill relating to Workers' Compensation. (85 § 1)

HB 1095 (Stites) - **RETIREMENT**. Creates the "Public Retirement Systems Technical Corrections Act of 1999".

HB 1096 (Stites) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Clarifies language relating to hospitals and the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board. (63 O.S. § 1-701; 74 O.S. § 1306)

HB 1099 (John Sullivan) - **CURRICULUM**. Provides that beginning with the 2001-2002 school year graduation requirements shall include four units each of language arts, science, math and social studies; provides for course substitutions. (70 § 70-11-103.6)

HB 1100 (John Sullivan) - **TAX CREDIT/TUITION/FEES**. Provides for a 25-percent income tax credit for tuition and fees paid to an accredited Oklahoma public or private college or university; establishes qualifications; provides for up to a three-year carry forward. (68 § 2357.28)

HB 1110 (Reese) - **TEACHERS/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**. Requires that mentor teachers and teacher members of local professional development committees be selected by the principal from a list submitted by the teachers, rather than by a bargaining unit if one exists. (70 §§ 6-182, 6-194)

HB 1119 (Beutler) - **TAX EXEMPTION/INTEREST INCOME**. Provides an income tax exemption for interest income on obligations issued on or after July 1, 1999, by or on behalf of the state or a political subdivision and which are exempt from federal income tax, except interest income on obligations issued on behalf of a tax-exempt charitable organization. (68 § 2358)

HB 1120 (Beutler) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Increases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the funeral expense benefit in the Workers' Compensation Act in cases in which no benefits under other provisions are paid to dependents of the deceased. (85 § 22)

HB 1128 (Webb) - **LIBRARY USE.** Permits any person to check out library books and research materials from any library located at a State System institution or constitutional agency, so long as such person has an Oklahoma state driver license or ID; provides penalties for violation of library rules. (70 § 3206.5)

HB 1130 (Gray) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.** Modifies the Administrative Procedures Act to remove the requirement that legislative disapproval of an agency pre-emptive rule must be done within the first 30 calendar days of the next regular legislative session following promulgation; prohibits invalidation of an emergency rule on the grounds that the contents of the rule impact statement are insufficient or inaccurate. (75 §§ 250.4, 250.6, 251, 253)

HB 1131 (Wells) - **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.** Updates language relating to State System institutions, changing Rogers University to Rogers State University and adding Oklahoma State University/Tulsa. (70 § 3201) *See HB 1200.*

HB 1132 (Reese) - **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP.** Creates the "Academic Excellence Scholarship Act"; authorizes the State Board of Education, subject to the availability of funds, to establish an Academic Excellence Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to students who complete the curriculum requirements of and are awarded a certificate of distinction; provides that each eligible student would be awarded \$500 to pay for tuition and fees at any Oklahoma public or private higher education institution. (70 §§ 2701, 2702) *See also HB 1175.*

HB 1136 (Hilliard) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.** Modifies the criteria for state agency rule impact statement waivers to remove impracticability as grounds; requires that rule impact statements include a determination that the proposed rule does not impose more stringent requirements than those provided by federal or state law, the source of revenue to be used for implementing and enforcing the proposed rule, a description of the costs and the benefits of the proposed rule to all affected classes of persons, a description of the uncertainties associated with the estimated costs and benefits, any information on any cost impacts of the proposed rule received by the agency from a private or public entity, a determination of the nature and costs of any paperwork requirements and any professional services that may be required for implementation of the proposed rule by the affected classes of persons, a determination of the effect of the rule on cost-of-living and doing business in the geographic area where the rule is to be implemented, a determination of the effect of the rule on employment in the county where the rule is to be implemented, a determination of the effect of the rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, a risk management report that provides an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk, and a determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the rule is not implemented. (75 §§ 253, 303)

HB 1140 (Easley) - **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION.** Clarifies language relating to confidentiality of state employee personal information. (74 § 840-2.11)

HB 1152 (Clay Pope) - **LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES LIABILITY.** Enacts the “Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act;” provides that any person participating in livestock activities shall assume all legal responsibility and shall not recover for any negligent injury, harm or damage to such person's own person or property unless such was caused by the intentional acts of another person. (76 §§ 50.1/50.3)

HB 1157 (Corn) - **OBSOLETE PROPERTY.** Authorizes disposition of outworn or obsolete state property to entities within the State System. (62 § 120.1)

HB 1170 (Wells) - **OSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE/RACING WAGERS.** Requires that 2.7 percent of one-ninth of 18 percent of pari-mutuel racing wagers be apportioned monthly to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine; makes similar requirement for 2.7 percent of 2/25 of 25 percent of multiple-race wagers. (3A § 205.6)

HB 1172 (McCarter) - **TEACHER PREPARATION.** Requires that school administrators demonstrate competency in substance abuse identification and prevention; requires that professional development programs adopted by local boards of education shall include a minimum of 60 minutes of in-service training on substance abuse identification and prevention. (70 §§ 6-185, 6-194)

HB 1175 (McCarter) - **FEE WAIVER/CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION.** Expresses legislative intent that recipients of the certificate of distinction be granted a three-semester waiver of general enrollment fees at any state-supported higher education institution or vocational school. (70 § 11-103.2d) *See also HB 1132.*

HB 1200 (Ross) - **STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.** Updates language relating to State System institutions, changing Rogers University to Rogers State University and adding Oklahoma State University/Tulsa. (70 § 3201) *See also HB 1131.*

HB 1201 (Ross) - **STATE REGENTS.** This is a shell bill relating to the State Regents for Higher Education. (70 § 3202)

HB 1203 (Roberts) - **DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES.** Modifies language relating to enhancement of penalties for violations of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; requires enhancement of the penalty for certain drug-related offenses committed within 5,000 feet, rather than 1,000 feet, of a public school, public or private college or university, or other higher education institution, or certain other public property. (63 § 2-401, 21 § 17)

HB 1206 (Pettigrew) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.** Modifies the schedule of compensation for strain or sprain injuries in the Workers' Compensation Act to require that an employee, upon reaching maximum medical improvement who returns to or receives a good faith offer of employment with the same employer at the same or greater rate of pay shall not be eligible for a permanent disability award; requires the court, upon request by the complaint within 180 days of maximum medical improvement, to examine the employment terms or offer of employment to determine the good faith of the employer; authorizes the court, if it finds there was not good faith, to order evaluation of the claimant for permanent disability by an independent medical examiner. (85 § 22)

HB 1210 (Ross) - HEALTH INSURANCE/PROSTATE CANCER. Requires health benefit plans to offer coverage for prostate cancer screening for men over the age of 50 years and men over the age of 40 who are in high-risk categories; requires that such coverage be exempt from policy deductibles; prohibits such coverage from exceeding \$65 per prostate-cancer-screening or the actual cost of the prostate-cancer-screening. (36 § 6060.7)

HB 1214 (Leist) - HEALTH INSURANCE/MANAGED CARE PROTECTION. Changes the name of the Oklahoma Managed Care Act to the Oklahoma Consumer of Managed Care Protection Act; requires certification of managed care entities offering health care services; requires that managed care entities provide for an internal system for resolution of complaints; authorizes the Health Department to examine such complaint system for compliance with the act and require the entity to make corrections as deemed necessary; provides that a managed care entity has the duty to exercise ordinary care when making health care treatment decisions and is liable for damages for harm to an insured or enrollee proximately caused by its failure to exercise such ordinary care; prohibits a managed care entity from removing a participating provider from its plan or refusing to renew such provider with its plan for advocating on behalf of an enrollee for appropriate and medically necessary health care for the enrollee; prohibits a managed care entity from entering into a contract with a physician, hospital or other health care provider or pharmaceutical company that includes an indemnification or hold harmless clause for the acts or conduct of the managed care entity. (63 §§ 2525.2/2525.5)

HB 1216 (Claunch) - INCOME TAX CREDIT/COLLEGE RESEARCH. Provides an income tax credit for investments in research and development projects at a private or public college or university accredited by the State Regents; sets such credit at 30 percent of the investment; allows unused credit to be carried forward for a maximum of five years; provides an income tax credit for investments in qualified depreciable research equipment; sets such credit at 5 percent of the cost of the research equipment that is not recaptured through depreciation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code in the first two years the equipment is placed in service in the state; allows such credit to be carried forward for a maximum five years. (68 §§ 2357.28, 2357.29)

HB 1237 (Hastings) - WORKERS' COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT/STATE INSURANCE FUND. Creates the "State Insurance Fund Loss Portfolio Transfer Act"; states legislative intent to seek a loss portfolio transfer of claims against and losses of the State Insurance Fund; states finding that, if there is a loss portfolio transfer, the state is entitled to 50 percent of the remaining unencumbered funds, or "special surplus", for the state's management and administrative role with regard to the Fund; requires that the remaining portion of the special surplus, after transfer of 50 percent to the state for its role as manager and administrator of the State Insurance Fund, be distributed equitably to policyholders of record since 1980; requires that one-third of the state's portion of the funds be deposited to the credit of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma (OTRS), one-fourth to the Firefighters Pension and Retirement Fund, one-sixth to the Special Indemnity Fund and the remainder to the General Revenue Fund; requires a Contingency Review Board review of the proposed agreement regarding the transfer and an independent statement as to the fairness of the proposed agreement for the state; provides for appeal of the contingency board's decision. (85 §§ 154/160)

HB 1242 (Hastings) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**. This is a shell bill pertaining to the designation of articles of the Administrative Procedures Act. (75 § 250.1)

HB 1244 (Hastings) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**. This is a shell bill relating to rulemaking procedures pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act. (75 § 303)

HB 1245 (Hastings) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**. This is a shell bill relating to exemptions from the Administrative Procedures Act. (75 § 250.4)

HB 1257 (McCarter) - **RETIREMENT/HEALTH INSURANCE**. Provides that any person who retires under OTRS or has a vested benefit in such system and elects to continue health insurance benefits may elect to continue, begin or reinstate coverage for dental, vision or other optional benefits provided through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act within 30 days after the date of termination of service or at any time after the initial 30-day period. (74 § 1316.3)

HB 1263 (Begley) - **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY**. Creates the "Technology in the Classroom Act; creates a nine-member Commission on School Technology, the membership of which include the Chancellor and the Director of OneNet or their designees; requires the State Department of Education, the Department of Vocational and Technical Education and the State Regents to provide administrative support for the Commission; requires the Commission to develop a state classroom technology plan; outlines criteria for plan; requires local boards of education to develop district plans; states legislative intent that each State System institution develop an institution classroom technology plan that meets the applicable requirements of and contains the applicable components of the state classroom technology plan; provides that the State Regents shall assist in the development of, evaluate, and approve all institution classroom technology plans; states legislative intent that each higher education institution shall annually review, and if necessary develop modifications to, the institution classroom technology plan and submit it to the State Regents for evaluation and approval; creates the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund; authorizes the State Board of Education to allocate funds to implement plans; requires the State Board of Education, the State Vo-Tech Board and the State Regents to annually prepare a joint funding plan; permits State System institutions to use any statewide contract for technology equipment established by Central Services. (70 §§ 1210.901/ 1210.911)

HB 1267 (Ostrander) - **RETIREMENT**. Provides that in lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement pension, any eligible member of OTRS may elect to participate in the Teachers' Retirement System Deferred Option Plan; limits participation period to no more than five years, after which the member shall retire and begin receiving monthly retirement benefits; requires that employer contributions be credited equally to the retirement system and the member's deferred option account; provides that retirement benefits that would have been payable had the member retired shall be paid into the deferred option account; provides for allocation of interest to account; gives member the option of receiving a lump sum payment or an annuity, or any other method approved by the board. (70 § 105.2)

HB 1274 (Seikel) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS**. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for severe mental illness; allows

such benefits be provided through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder. (36 § 6060.10)

HB 1285 (Benson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS**. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for severe mental illness; allows such benefits be provided through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement, contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 3 percent in premium cost. (36 §§ 6060.10, 6060.11)

HB 1293 (Settle) - **PURCHASING/PROPOSALS/BIDS**. Requires state agencies, whether or not the agency is otherwise exempt from requirements of the Central Purchasing Act, prior to drafting a request for proposal (RFP) or invitation to bid (ITB), to terminate any relationship that the agency has had with any individual or business entity for preliminary work on the RFP or ITB; allows such entities to receive such RFP or ITB and submit proposals or bids; requires that, when issuing the RFP or ITB, the agency disclose the identity of any entity that provided such assistance; provides that an individual or business entity that assists a state agency in evaluating proposals or bids shall be ineligible to receive a contract; makes it unlawful for any public officer, employee or person representing a state agency or officer from making any unauthorized disclosure of information which is or will be contained in a bid notice or which is submitted in response to a bid notice in advance of the date on which the notice is to be made known to all prospective bidders; makes it unlawful to solicit such information; designates violation with intent to defraud the state a felony; requires that a notarized noncollusion statement be attached to any bid or contract submitted to the state, whether or not subject to the Central Purchasing Act. (74 §§ 85.7b, 85.15a, 85.22, 85.23)

HB 1296 (Settle) - **FEES/NONRESIDENT TUITION**. This is a shell bill relating to higher education general enrollment fees and nonresident tuition. (70 § 3218.8)

HB 1297 (Settle) - **RETIREMENT/REAUTHORIZATION**. Deletes requirement for annual reauthorization of certain increases in retirement benefits under OTRS. (70 § 17-116.13)

HB 1299 (Settle) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. This is a shell bill relating to the Workers' Compensation Act. (85 § 1)

HB 1300 (Settle) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Provides that a workers' compensation claimant may elect to have hearings in either Oklahoma City or Tulsa; allows employer to object under certain conditions. (85 § 3.5)

HB 1307 (Dunegan) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Provides that upon request of the patient in a workers' compensation exam or when the patient is deaf or hard of hearing, the spouse or other relative shall be allowed in the examining room unless the spouse or other relative is in a contagious condition or exhibits unruly behavior. (59 §§ 492, 509)

HB 1311 (Greenwood) - **SCHOOL TESTING**. Requires the State Board of Education to develop and make available to the public at various locations, including higher education institutions, sample tests similar to tests administered under the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act. (70 § 1210.507)

HB 1317 (Fields) - **TAXES/INHERITED PROPERTY**. Makes inherited property held by colleges or schools taxable if not devoted to the appropriate objects of any such school. (68 § 2887)

HB 1344 (Leist) - **VETERINARY SCHOOLS**. Removes authority for the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to issue certificates to practice for a short period of time in the state with no anticipation of permanent practice in the state or to practice while in the employ of an approved school of veterinary medicine and while doing limited veterinary work for such school. (59 §§ 698.8a, 698.14b)

HB 1351 (Stanley) - **DENTAL FACULTY**. Prohibits faculty permit holders from engaging in faculty or private practice of dentistry. (59 § 328.19, 328.21, 328.27)

HB 1362 (Hastings) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Authorizes state entities to provide workers' compensation insurance coverage to employees by self-insuring and making appropriation of funds to cover their risk or by insuring with licensed insurance carriers other than the State Insurance Fund. (85 § 2b)

HB 1364 (Begley) - **EDUCATION LEADERSHIP**. Clarifies language relating to the Education Leadership Oklahoma program. (70 § 6-204.2)

HB 1376 (Ervin) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Creates the "Health Care Liability Act"; provides that a health insurance carrier, health maintenance organization or other managed care entity for a health care plan has the duty to exercise ordinary care when making health care treatment decisions and is liable for damages for harm to an insured or enrollee proximately caused by its failure to exercise ordinary care; makes such entity also liable for damages for harm to an insured or enrollee proximately caused by the health care treatment decisions of its employees, agents or representatives over whom it has the right to exercise influence or control which result in the failure to exercise ordinary care; prohibits such health care entities from removing a physician or health care provider from its plan or refuse to renew the physician or provider with its plan for advocating on behalf of an enrollee for appropriate and medically necessary health care for the enrollee; prohibits such entity from entering into a contract with a health care provider or pharmaceutical company that includes an indemnification or hold harmless clause for the acts or conduct of

the carrier; provides an exemption for workers' compensation insurance coverage. (76 §§ 21.1/21.4)

HB 1382 (Roach) - TUITION SCHOLARSHIP. Creates an Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program to ensure that students who meet certain criteria, have completed a college preparatory curriculum upon graduation from high school and are intending to pursue studies at a state higher education institution leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree are rewarded by having the first two years of tuition for enrollment at a State System institution paid for by the state; provides eligibility requirements; requires the State Regents to promulgate rules relating to maintenance of eligibility; states legislative intent that students graduating during the 1999-2000 school year be the first students eligible for benefits. (70 §§ 2610/2613)

HB 1384 (Roach) - HEALTH INSURANCE. Creates the "Oklahoma Women's and Children's Accessibility to Health Services Act"; requires health benefit plans to allow obstetricians and gynecologists as primary care practitioners; states legislative intent that a woman at all times have direct access to the services of a participating obstetrician or gynecologist under any health benefit plan; requires a health benefit plan that requires an enrollee to designate a participating primary care practitioner and provides for dependent care coverage to permit a dependent minor enrollee to access a pediatrician for pediatric care services as a primary care practitioner. (63 §§ 2550.1/2550.5)

HB 1387 (McCarter) - HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for severe mental illness; allows such benefits be provided through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement, contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 3 percent in premium cost; provides an income tax credit for employers incurring eligible expenses in connection with providing such health insurance coverage. (36 §§ 6060.10, 6060.11; 68 § 2357.66)

HB 1399 (Lindley) - HEALTH INSURANCE. Creates the "Oklahoma Managed Care Consumer Protection Act"; states purpose to provide authority for the state to ensure that enrollees receive adequate health care services under a managed care system. (63 § 2550.1)

HB 1411 (Perry) - ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES. Delays the reporting date for the electronic commerce pilot program until Dec. 15, 1999; authorizes the Office of State Finance, in conjunction with the Department of Central Services, to implement electronic signature certification authority technology and to issue or cause to be issued certificates of authority for electronic or digital signatures used in conjunction with electronic business and commerce transactions in state government; delays the termination date of the Task Force on Electronic Signature Technology until Feb. 1, 2000. (74 §§ 5060.50, 5060.51)

HB 1413 (Perry) - **COMPUTER MALFUNCTION/LIABILITY.** Provides the state and political subdivisions immunity from liability for losses caused by failure or malfunction occurring before Dec. 31, 2005, that is caused by failure of computer software or computer device to accurately or properly recognize, calculate, display, sort or otherwise process dates or time; allows a claim to be brought pursuant to the Governmental Tort Claims Act for medical negligence caused by such failure to accurately or properly recognize, calculate, display, sort or otherwise process dates or times if such failure resulted in bodily injury or death. (51 § 155.2)

HB 1415 (Hiatt) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.** Requires that rule impact statements relating to proposed state agency rules be available to the public; requires the notice of intent to include the rule impact statement or a statement that the Governor has waived the requirement in writing; adds to issues to be addressed in ruled impact statements to include a determination that the proposed rule does not impose more stringent requirements than those provided by federal or state law, the source of revenue to be used for implementing and enforcing the proposed rule, a determination of paperwork and other requirements, a determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the costs of doing business, a determination of the effect of the proposed rule on employment, a determination of the proposed rule's effect on the public health, safety and environment if the rule is not implemented. (75 §§ 253, 303)

HB 1420 (Graves) - **OBSCENE MATERIAL.** Deletes exemptions for serious literary, artistic and political purposes or value from the definition of "obscene material." (21 § 1024.1)

HB 1425 (Askins) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.** Clarifies language relating to authorization for Workers' Compensation claims by state employees. (85 § 2c)

HB 1428 (Staggs) - **RETIREMENT.** Establishes the Teachers' Deferred Savings Incentive Plan Fund; requires the Teachers' Retirement System to match up to \$25 per month of amount each active member is contributing to a plan account. (70 § 17-121)

HB 1429 (Corn) - **GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS.** Provides for a graduate student supplement to be granted to eligible graduate students by the State Regents to satisfy general enrollment fees, subject to availability of funds. (70 § 2606)

HB 1442 (Glover) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.** Clarifies language relating to rehabilitation and job placement services. (85 § 16)

HB 1443 (Betty Boyd) - **HEALTH INSURANCE.** Creates the "Oklahoma Health Care Quality Improvement Act". (63 § 2550.1)

HB 1449 (Ingmire) - **OSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.** This is a shell bill relating to Oklahoma State Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital. (70 § 3201.1)

HB 1453 (Winchester) - **SALES TAX EXEMPTION/TEXTBOOKS.** Exempts sales of college textbooks from state sales tax. (68 § 1357)

HB 1456 (Miller) - **GRADUATE STUDENT/GRANT**. Provides for a graduate student fellowship grant to eligible graduate students by the State Regents to satisfy general enrollment fees, subject to availability of funds. (70 § 2606)

HB 1457 (Miller) - **FEES/NONRESIDENT TUITION**. This is a shell bill relating to higher education general enrollment fees and nonresident tuition. (70 § 3218.8)

HB 1458 (Miller) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Allows state and education employees to elect to cover a dependent child and not cover a spouse. (74 §§ 1303, 1309)

HB 1462 (Askins) - **RESTRAINING ORDER**. Authorizes an employer to petition for a temporary restraining order against an employee threatening physical harm to employees or others. (22 § 70)

HB 1482 (Blackburn) - **ACADEMIC SCHOLARS**. This is a shell bill relating to the Academic Scholars Program. (70 § 2405)

HB 1493 (Nations) - **FEES**. This is a shell bill relating to higher education fees. (70 § 3218.10)

HB 1494 (Nations) - **GENERAL ENROLLMENT FEES**. This is a shell bill relating to higher education general enrollment fees and nonresident tuition. (70 § 3218.8)

HB 1496 (Wilt) - **TEACHER SALARIES**. Authorizes public school teachers who have returned to higher education to complete advanced degrees in the four basic subject areas or who have majored in math or science to be eligible for additional salary increments. (70 § 18-114.7a)

HB 1508 (Toure) - **SCHOOL TESTING**. Modifies accommodations in the Oklahoma School Testing Program to include testing of students with limited English proficiency. (70 § 1210.508)

HB 1509 (Toure) - **EMPLOYEE TERMINATION**. Creates the "Employee Fairness Act"; prohibits an employer from terminating the employment of any employee-at-will who has been employed for a minimum of 30 days except for just cause; defines "employee-at-will" as an individual who works for an employer for hire for an average of at least 20 hours a week and requires just cause be terminated; provides exceptions for employees covered pursuant to a valid collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a labor organization and employees covered pursuant to an express written contract or employment having a specified duration; requires posting of "just cause" notices by employers; provides for civil remedy; calls on a vote of the people on the issue. (40 §§ 199.5a, 1995b)

HB 1510 (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/TEACHER PREPARATION**. Appropriates to various education entities including appropriations for the Common Education Classroom Technology Fund, scholarships to the Great Expectations Summer Institutes, implementing telecommunications curriculum statewide, Community Education Grants, Education Leadership Oklahoma, contracting with the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education, and for the Commission for Teacher Preparation. (70 § 18-103.1)

HB 1515 (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/TEACHER PREPARATION**. Provides for duties and compensation of employees of the Commission for Teacher Preparation; limits the salary of the director to \$58,200; provides budgetary limitations.

HB 1523 (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. Appropriates to various health entities, including the University Hospitals Authority.

HB 1528 (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. Appropriates to the University Hospitals Authority; limits the salary of the director.

HB 1537 (Settle/Haney) - **ASBESTOS ABATEMENT**. Requires the Labor Department to submit annual reports detailing the amount per agency of all state, federal and local funds received for asbestos abatement, the projects completed per agency, the number of agency employees used in the programs and the projected needs for the next succeeding fiscal year; requires the State Regents and other appropriate state agencies involved in asbestos abatement to cooperate with the Labor Department to provide such information.

HB 1566 (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS**. Appropriates to the State Regents from the Constitutional Reserve Fund.

HB 1592 (Eddins) - **NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY/LITERACY**. Requires the establishment of a toll-free statewide literacy services referral system; deletes provisions for the creation of a literacy screening system; requires the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the State Department of Education, the Center for the Study of Literacy located at Northeastern State University, and the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority to conduct an awareness campaign to inform functionally illiterate adults about the availability of literacy services throughout the state and to recruit literacy volunteers; requires the State Department of Education to participate in the National Assessment of Adult Literacy; repeals section relating to the re-creation and purpose of the Literacy Initiatives Commission. (70 §§ 8001, 8003)

HB 1599 (Staggs) - **SCHOOL TESTING**. Discontinues norm-referenced tests; requires the State Board of Education to perform test development, implementation, evaluation and correlation; provides for testing at the end of instruction at the secondary level; provides for remediation and test retakes; modifies reporting of test performances in the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program; modifies testing provisions for disabled students to allow use of alternative assessments; removes language relating to identification of low performance on norm-referenced tests; requires the State Board of Education to implement a program of recognition and incentive, including financial awards subject to availability of funds; sets a standard for low performance on criterion-referenced tests; modifies the process for identification of low-performing and high-challenge schools; requires a comparison of state curriculum standards to National Assessment of Educational Progress standards; repeals a section relating to recommendations for test performance standards. (70 §§ 1210.508, 1210.513, 1210.514, 1210.541)

HB 1622 (Askins) - **LONG-RANGE PLANS**. Requires state agencies to make five-year strategic plans for operations; requires the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget and

Program Oversight and the Office of State Finance to determine the elements required to be included in each agency's strategic plan; specifies requirements for the contents of such plans; requires the Governor, in cooperation with the Legislature, to establish achievement goals for each functional area of state government; authorizes the Governor and Legislature to compile a long-range strategic plan for state government using the state agency plans; requires that the state plan be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Auditor and Inspector and each member of the Legislature by the seventh working day of each regular legislative session; requires the Auditor and Inspector, when conducting a performance audit of a state agency, to consider in the evaluation the extent to which the agency conforms to the agency's strategic plan. (62 §§ 45.1/45.9)

HB 1629 (Pettigrew) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Creates the "Oklahoma Patient Protection Act"; prohibits managed care entities from prohibiting or restricting a participating provider from discussing with or disclosing to any enrollee or other individual any medically appropriate health care information that such provider deems appropriate regarding the nature of treatment options, the risks or alternatives thereto, the process used or the decision made by such enrollee to approve or deny health care services, the availability of alternative therapies, consultations or tests or from advocating on behalf of the enrollee within the utilization review or grievance processes established by the managed care entity or appeals process; prohibits managed care entities from denying payment for an evaluation, diagnostic testing or treatment provided as part of appropriate intervention for an emergency condition; requires managed care plans to allow obstetricians and gynecologists as primary care physicians; requires establishment of an internal complaint resolution process; requires that coverage be offered through a point-of-service plan. (63 § 2550.1/2550.8, 2621/2623)

HB 1630 (Blackburn) - **ACADEMIC SCHOLARS**. This is a shell bill relating to the Academic Scholars Program. (70 § 2405)

HB 1644 (Coleman) - **CURRICULAR STANDARDS/REMEDIATION COURSES**. Requires that curricular standards established by the State Board of Education meet those required for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and be sufficient to ensure that every student at every high school have the opportunity to acquire all competencies to matriculate at a comprehensive graduate institution of The State System without the necessity of enrolling at the university in secondary-level courses; requires the board to adopt curricular standards for public school students in grades one through three that are to be implemented by the 2000-2001 school year and are focused on development of skills and attainment of competencies in the areas of reading, mathematics and spelling only; prohibits other skills or competencies from being required in grades one through three. (70 § 11-103.6)

HB 1645 (Coleman) - **TEACHER COMPETENCIES**. Expands required teacher competencies to include excellence in reading instruction; directs that pre-service programs require elementary teacher candidates to have training in the five essential elements of reading instruction, including phoneme awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency and comprehension. (70 § 6-185)

HB 1649 (Deutschendorf/Robinson) - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY**. Creates an Oklahoma School Technology Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education; requires local exchange telecommunications service providers, beginning Sept. 1, to annually contribute \$2 per retail local exchange access line to the Oklahoma Telecommunications Technology Training Fund until the total contributed by all providers equals \$12 million; requires that the School Technology Fund be used to provide telecommunications infrastructure to public schools, including telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections and site-specific telecommunications services and site-specific Internet access; prohibits local exchange telecommunications service providers serving 15 percent or more of the access lines in the state from applying for recovery of contributions made to the Telecommunications Technology Training Fund from the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund. (17 § 139.109)

HB 1650 (Deutschendorf/Robinson) - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY**. Creates the "Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Act"; establishes a Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Pilot Program for development of a virtual Internet school in the state to provide verifiable information on the advantages of web-based instructional programs; requires that the program also enable development and testing of procedures and standards so that implementation of a statewide virtual Internet school network will progress smoothly; designates the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) as the coordinating agency for the pilot program; requires that at least six public school districts be selected to participate in the pilot program; specifies selection criteria; creates a Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee to oversee the program. (70 §§ 1210.721/1210.725)

HB 1655 (Ferguson) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. For purposes of certain workers' compensation injuries, makes an employee who, upon reaching maximum medical improvement, returns to or receives a good faith offer of employment with the same employer at the same or greater rate of pay, ineligible for a permanent disability award; requires the court, upon request by a claimant within 180 days of maximum medical improvement, to examine the employment terms or offer to determine the good faith of the employer; authorizes the court, if it finds there was not good faith, to order evaluation of the claimant for permanent disability by an independent medical examiner. (85 § 22)

HB 1659 (Newport) - **AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**. Requires that American Sign Language be granted the same credit as a foreign language in public schools. (70 § 11-103.1)

HB 1673 (Collins) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS**. Requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to include coverage for severe mental illness; allows such benefits be provided through a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement,

contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 3 percent in premium cost. (36 §§ 6060.10, 6060.11)

HB 1678 (Collins) - PREPAID TUITION. Creates the "Oklahoma Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Program Act"; creates an Oklahoma Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board in the Office of the State Treasurer; allows purchasers to enter into prepaid tuition contracts with the Board; requires the Board to deposit any money so paid into an Oklahoma Tomorrow Fund, invest the money, credit income earned to the Fund and apply money in the Fund to tuition and required fees of the chosen higher education or vocational-technical institution or program; outlines criteria for contracts and qualifications of beneficiaries; provides that payments may be lump-sum or installment; authorizes change of beneficiary; allows conversion of plans; requires the Board to make certain reports. (70 §§ 3971.1/3971.30)

HB 1679 (Begley) - CONSULTANT SERVICE CONTRACTS. This is a shell bill relating to consultant service contracts with retired higher education employees. (70 § 3227)

HB 1681 (Seikel) - HEALTH INSURANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY. Requires a managed care plan, in any case in which the plan has no participating providers to provide a covered benefit, to arrange for a referral to a provider with necessary expertise and ensure that the covered person obtains the benefit at no greater cost than if the benefit were obtained from participating providers; requires that plans have a procedure by which covered persons with a life-threatening or a degenerative and disabling condition or disease may receive referral to a specialist with expertise in such treatment, who shall be responsible for and capable of coordinating the insured's primary and specialty care; requires a managed care plan that does not allow direct access to all specialists to implement a procedure by which a covered person may receive a standing referral to a specialist; requires plans using a formulary for prescription drugs to include a written procedure whereby covered persons can obtain, without penalty, drugs not included in the formulary, under certain conditions; requires plans to establish procedures for governing termination of participating providers that provide for continuing treatment of a covered person by a terminated physician under certain conditions; requires plans to authorize participation of a covered person in a clinical trial if certain criteria are met; creates the "Managed Health Care Accountability Act; outlines liability for damages for harm to an insured or enrollee caused by a managed care entity's failure to exercise ordinary care; provides for defenses; establishes requirements for causes of action. (36 §§ 6060.7/6060.9, 6550/6552)

HB 1710 (Coleman) - REMEDIAL COURSES. States legislative intent that, by 2001, all remedial courses in the comprehensive universities and four-year colleges and universities be terminated and that only community colleges include remedial courses in their schedules; states intent that any person out of school no more than five years not be required to pay a fee for remedial courses at a State System institution. (70 § 3218.15)

HB 1727 (Calvey) - OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION AID (OTAG). This is a shell bill modifying requirements for aid under the Oklahoma Higher Education Tuition Act. (70 §§ 626.2, 626.4, 626.7)

HB 1745 (Frame) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY**. Requires an insurer, if a claim is not paid within six months after receipt of proof of loss, to pay interest at the same rate as the average U.S. Treasury Bill rate of the preceding calendar year plus 4 percentage points; expands actions which constitute unfair claims practices to include requesting a refund of all or a portion of payment of a claim made to a claimant or health care provider more than 24 months after the payment is made. (36 §§ 1219, 1250.5)

HB 1746 (Greenwood) - **SELF DEFENSE**. Repeals the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act. (21 §§ 1272.1, 1277)

HB 1748 (Blackburn) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/BEHAVIORAL**. This is a shell bill relating to networks providing behavioral health care. (43A § 3-112)

HB 1754 (Roggow) - **APPROPRIATIONS/NSU IN ENID**. Appropriates \$6 million to the State Regents for the Northwestern State University campus in Enid.

HB 1759 (Benson) - **TUITION SCHOLARSHIP/CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION/SCHOOL TESTING/TEACHER PREPARATION/NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION/CHARTER SCHOOLS**. Creates an Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program to ensure that students who meet certain criteria, have completed a college preparatory curriculum upon graduation from high school and are intending to pursue studies at a State System higher education institution leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree are rewarded by having the first two years of tuition for enrollment at a State System institution paid for by the state; provides eligibility requirements; requires the State Regents to promulgate rules relating to maintenance of eligibility; states legislative intent that students graduating during the 1999-2000 school year be the first students eligible for benefits; changes the name of the certificate of distinction to the diploma of honor and modifies criteria to require four units in English, three each in mathematics, social studies, and science and one-half unit in the area of technology; requires that such units be college-preparatory courses; removes authorization for vo-tech courses to be included; directs the State Board of Education, beginning with students graduated in the 2002-2003 school year, to require all students, by the end of their senior year, to have earned four units in English and three units each in mathematics, social studies and sciences; requires that applicable vocational classes offered by comprehensive high school vo-tech programs qualify for the required academic units; requires remediation of students who do not perform satisfactorily on the mathematics portion of norm-referenced tests; requires that public school mathematics teachers in grades six, seven or eight be certified at the intermediate or secondary level in mathematics; states legislative intent to establish a continuing education program whereby teachers certified to teach mathematics may continue their education beyond initial licensing and certification; requires that the program pay up to \$100 per credit hour for a teacher to take higher education courses in mathematics; provides for an appropriation to the State Board of Education to award grants to school sites for significantly increased average test scores; prohibits the use of more than 50 percent of such award for teacher bonuses; increases the award for teachers who attain National Board certification from \$5,000 to \$10,000; modifies criteria for forgivable loans; requires schools to expand alternative education programs to middle school grades; requires certain schools to expand alternative education to elementary school grades; directs schools to expand the annual student needs assessment and plan to include certain students; states legislative

intent to provide funding for elementary-level school counselors; authorizes the board of education to adopt a dress code; directs school districts to distribute economically disadvantaged pupil weight State Aid to certain schools; creates the "Education Choice Act"; provides for transfer of students; allows receiving districts to provide transportation to certain transferred students; creates the "Oklahoma Charter Schools Act"; provides for public schools established by contracts with local boards of education to provide learning that will improve student achievement; allows a charter school to consist of a new school, new schools or all or any portion of an existing school; prohibits private schools from applying; requires surety bonds; creates a Charter Schools Stimulus Fund; requires annual reports; repeals sections relating to student transfers. (70 §§ 2610/2613)

HB 1760 (Winchester) - **TAX CREDIT/TUITION/FEES**. Provides an income tax credit of 100 percent of the federal Lifetime Learning Credit for qualified tuition and related expenses; allows unused credits to be carried forward for four years. (68 § 2357.28)

HB 1761 (Winchester) - **TAX CREDIT/TUITION/FEES**. Provides an income tax credit of 100 percent of the federal Hope Scholarship Credit for qualified tuition and related expenses; allows unused credits to be carried forward for four years. (68 § 2357.28)

HB 1772 (Bryant) - **CHARTER SCHOOLS**. Creates the "Oklahoma Charter Schools Act"; defines "charter school" as a public school established by contract with a local board of education or the State Board of Education, the State Board of Vo-Tech Schools, or the State Regents to provide learning that will improve student achievement; specifies contents of applications for charter schools; allows a public school, public body, public or private college or university, private person or private organization to establish a charter school under contract; provides for acceptance or rejection of sponsorship; specifies requirements for contracts for charter schools; requires that charter schools be nonsectarian; provides for curriculum and testing; prohibits charging of tuition; limits terms of contracts to five years; specifies admission requirements; authorizes the designation of specific geographic area where students would reside; requires the provision of transportation; creates a "Charter Schools Stimulus Fund". (70 §§ 3-130/143)

HB 1785 (Wilt) - **SCHOOL TESTING**. This is a shell bill relating to the Oklahoma School Testing Program. (70 § 1210.508)

HB 1789 (Reese) - **RETIREMENT**. Provides for a "Pension and Retirement Corrections Act of 1999".

HB 1799 (Turner) - **TEACHER PREPARATION**. Transfers powers and duties of the Teacher Preparation Commission to the State Board of Education; requires the state board to grant a standard teaching certificate to a person who first obtains a teaching license and satisfactorily completes an alternative preparation program; outlines criteria for licensure; requires teacher education programs to submit alternative placement plans to the board for approval; terminates the Teacher Preparation Commission on July 1, 2000; repeals section relating to alternative placement teacher certification. (70 §§ 6-122.3, 6-122.4, 6-199; 74 § 3907)

HB 1806 (Staggs) - **TEACHER PREPARATION**. Deletes a requirement that after completing 90 credit hours each teacher candidate shall be eligible to take a competency examination; repeals a section relating to course requirements on the exceptional child. (70 §§ 6-128, 6-187)

HB 1809 (Plunk) - **CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**. Prohibits chiropractic physicians from violating provisions of the Unfair Claims Settlement Act or assisting an insurer in violating the act; increases the scholarship amounts per student that may be awarded under the Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program. (59 §§ 161.12, 161.16)

HB 1811 (Graves) - **GARNISHMENT**. Provides for a "Garnishment Procedures Act of 1999".

HB 1821 (Blackburn) - **COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN**. Provides for terms of membership of the Board of Trustees of the College Savings Plan; requires the trustees to select financial institutions to act as depositories of the program accounts through a competitive selection process but exempting such process from the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act. (70 §§ 3970.4, 3970.5)

HB 1822 (Liotta) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/BENEFITS COMMITTEE**. Increases membership of the Joint Liaison Committee on State and Education Employees Group Insurance Benefits; requires the committee to meet at least quarterly; expands the duties of the committee. (74 § 1306)

HB 1829 (Beutler) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/ENROLLMENT**. Clarifies language relating to enrollment in plans offered through the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act. (74 § 1308)

HB 1830 (Dunegan) - **RETIREMENT AGE**. Modifies the definition of "normal retirement age". (70 §§ 17-101, 17-105)

HB 1835 (Wilt) - **TAX CREDIT/COLLEGE DONATION**. Provides an income tax credit for donations to any college or university in this state; limits credit to 50 percent of the donation, but in no event shall more than 12.5 percent of the total donation be given to the athletic department of the institution; provides for a three-year carryforward. (68 § 2358.28)

HB 1837 (Calvey) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/PATIENT PROTECTION**. Creates the "Oklahoma Patient Protection Act"; prohibits managed care entities from barring participating providers from disclosing to an enrollee any medically appropriate health care information regarding treatment options, risks and alternatives; requires evaluation of an enrollee with an emergency condition who presents himself or herself to an emergency medical provider; authorizes an attending physician who determines such to be necessary to initiate appropriate intervention to stabilize the enrollee without seeking or receiving prospective authorization by a managed care entity; prohibits entity from subsequently denying payment; requires managed care plans to allow obstetricians and gynecologists as primary care physicians; requires managed care entities to maintain an internal system for resolution of complaints; requires managed care entities to disclose certain information to

enrollees; requires managed care entities to offer coverage through a point-of-service plan; clarifies language relating to medical savings accounts. (63 §§ 2550.1/2550.8, 2621/2623)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

HJR 1001 (John Sullivan) - **APPROPRIATIONS/EDUCATION**. Proposed constitutional amendment requiring that appropriations for expenses directly related to the education of students in common schools be passed by the Legislature prior to final passage of any other measures containing appropriations; requires that such education appropriations receive final passage at least 20 days prior to the date by which other appropriation measures receive final approval by either house of the Legislature and be sent to the Governor for executive action at least 30 calendar days prior to sine die adjournment.

HJR 1002 (Webb) - **APPROPRIATIONS/EDUCATION**. Proposed constitutional amendment requiring that education appropriations be passed prior to final passage of any other appropriation measures; requires that education appropriations be approved at least 30 days prior to the prescribed for sine die adjournment, and at least 20 days prior to the date any other appropriation measure is approved.

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