



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friday, January 22, 1999

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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From: Bryce Fair & Carolyn McCoy

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## Highlights This Week:

**More Bills Added to List:** Nearly 60 more bills have been added to our tracking list this week which now totals almost 200 bills. The Senate will continue to introduce bills until next Thursday, January 28. To see the new bills, go to the section entitled "Bills Added to the List" on page 3. To review a text of any bill, go to <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/docs/billtext.html>.

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

[Note: for the most current updates on legislative committee meetings go to the House homepage at: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/house/meetings.htm> and the Senate homepage at: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/senate/meetingnotices.html>.]

- January 25, 1999; Monday; 10:00 a.m.; Room 511A, State Capitol  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education  
Agenda:
  1. FY'99 Proposed Budget Reductions for Education Agencies
  
- January 25, 1999; Monday; 10:30 a.m.; Room 432A, State Capitol  
House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee on Education  
Agenda: Budget Hearings
  1. 10:30 – 11:30 Common Education
  2. 11:30 – 12:00 Commission for Teacher Preparation
  3. 12:00 – 12:30 State Arts Council
  
- January 25, 1999; Monday; 1:00 p.m.; Regents Conference Room, Education Bldg.  
Oklahoma College Savings Plan Board of Trustees  
Agenda:
  1. Includes discussion of plan design and policy issues.
  
- January 25, 1999; Monday; 1:30 p.m.; Room 412A, State Capitol  
House Retirement Laws Committee  
Agenda: 15 bills on the agenda including



## **Bills Added to the List:**

- SB 38 - Surplus equipment
- SB 43 - POW/MIA Recognition Day
- SB 47 - Unemployment benefits
- SB 62 - Graduate student fellowships
- SB 63 - Fellowships for doctoral or research studies
- SB 66 - Teacher Preparation competency exams
- SB 102 - Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP)
- SB 121 - Appropriations for Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST)
- SB 123 - Appropriations for Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST)
- SB 150 - Appropriations for State Regents and Physician Manpower Training Commission
- SB 151 - Appropriations for State Regents
- SB 152 - Appropriations for Physician Manpower Training Commission
- SB 166 - Appropriations for Physician Manpower Training Commission
- SB 176 - Unclassified service
- SB 177 - Flexible benefit allowance
- SB 178 - Deferred savings incentive plan
- SB 180 - Program budgeting
- SB 182 - Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority
- SB 183 - Central Purchasing Act
- HB 1249 - Tourism Dept. contracting with higher ed institutions for research
- HB 1271 - Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS)/federal block grant funds
- HB 1288 - Public school definition/junior colleges
- HB 1318 - Health Care Freedom of Choice Act
- HB 1338 - Health benefit plans provision for infertility treatment
- HB 1342 - Tuition Trust Act
- HB 1355 - Physician profile information
- HB 1357 - Drug/alcohol testing
- HB 1374 - Licensed Orthotists and Prosthetists Act
- HB 1439 - Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS)/education requirements
- HB 1469 - Income tax adjustments for technology transfers to small business
- HB 1497 - Bonuses for math and science teachers
- HB 1564 - Appropriations for State Regents, Physician Manpower training Commission, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), and University Hospitals
- HB 1600 - Zero-Based Budgeting Act of 1999
- HB 1611 - Allowing raffles for educational organizations for charitable purposes
- HB 1647 - Development of Internet homework tutoring chat rooms
- HB 1648 - Public School Technology Development Fund Act
- HB 1683 - Unemployment
- HB 1686 - Health insurance/changing primary care physician
- HB 1691 - Allowing raffles for educational organizations for charitable purposes
- HB 1694 - Central Purchasing Act Corrections Act of 1999

HB 1696 - Pension Protection Act  
HB 1697 - Committee to Study Postemployment Health-Related Benefits  
HB 1698 - Conversion of computer systems for the year 2000  
HB 1703 - Prohibition of discrimination in employment and education  
HB 1740 - School Safety Telecommunications Fund  
HB 1755 - Toll-free number on state-owned vehicles to report reckless driving  
HB 1767 - Telemedicine authority  
HB 1771 - Workers' compensation  
HB 1773 - Oklahoma Governmental Defined Benefit Plan Modification Act  
HB 1790 - Economic Development Matching Grant Implementation Act of 1999  
HB 1795 - Increasing fines for pornography over the Internet  
HB 1796 - Income tax credit for charitable donations  
HB 1812 - Financial incentive awards for advanced placement programs  
HB 1813 - Deduction of wages without employee's permission  
HB 1818 - Workers' compensation/rehabilitation and job placement  
HB 1823 - Student use permits for Wildlife Conservation land  
HB 1826 - Managed Care External Review Act

If you need copies of any of the bills, go to the website: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/docs/billtext.html>, or contact Carolyn McCoy at (405) 524-9165 [e-mail: [cmccoy@osrhe.edu](mailto:cmccoy@osrhe.edu)].

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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 21, 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 38 (Morgan) - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.** Authorizes state agencies to dispose of obsolete or surplus equipment to entities within The State System. (62 § 120.1)

**SB 43 (Helton/Kirby) - POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY.** Designates the third Friday of September of each year as POW/MIA Recognition Day; authorizes the Governor to authorize all state agencies to fly the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners of War and Missing in Southeast Asia. (25 § 90.13)

**SB 46 (Taylor) - PROGRAM BUDGETING.** This is a shell bill relating to program budgeting. (62 § 41.46)

**SB 47 (Long) - UNEMPLOYMENT.** Modifies definition of taxable wages, for purposes of the Employment Security Act of 1980, to 50 percent of the state's average annual wage for the second preceding year; modifies definition of maximum benefit amount to the lesser of 26 times the weekly benefit amount of the individual or 45 percent of taxable wage or 45 percent of the individual's wages for insured work paid during the individual's base period; requires disqualification of individuals who make false statements or who have failed to disclose material facts to the Employment Security Commission, for each week benefits were paid as a result of such information; authorizes waiver of interest on overpayments under certain conditions; deletes medical necessity and spousal work transfer from definition of good cause for leaving work. (40 § 2-209)

**SB 49 (Wilcoxson) - TAX CREDIT/TUITION/FEES.** Establishes a state income tax credit for any amount paid by a teacher for tuition paid for college courses satisfactorily completed in pursuit of a master's degree in an academic course of study other than education, but in a field that the teacher would reasonably be expected to use in the classroom, or courses in pursuit of a second undergraduate degree with a full major in English, mathematics, science or social studies or fees paid for any examination required by the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation Act. (68 § 2357)

**SB 62 (Williams) - GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS.** States legislative intent that \$250,000 be appropriated to the State Regents to provide supplements of \$5,000 each to graduate fellowships offered by Oklahoma colleges and universities targeted to certain areas of excellence under plans approved by the Regents.

**SB 63 (Williams) - GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS.** Authorizes the State Regents to establish fellowships for doctoral or research studies. (70 § 698.3)

**SB 66 (Williams) - TEACHER PREPARATION/COMPETENCY EXAMS.** Modifies requirements for taking teacher competency examinations to remove language requiring that teacher candidates be eligible following completion of the junior year or after having completed 90 college credit hours; repeals a section relating to certain course requirements. (70 §§ 6-187, 6-128)

**SB 102** (Horner) - **OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM (OHLAP)** Modifies eligibility for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program by allowing financial need to be established during the eighth-, ninth- or tenth-grade year; prohibits allocations from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund for students enrolled in a postsecondary vo-tech program or course from exceeding the amount a student would have received for comparable enrollment at a two-year State System institution; requires that a student be eligible for financial assistance under the program if the student's family income does not exceed 225 percent of the federal poverty level but not if the student's family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four. (70 §§ 2603/2605)

**SB 121** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OCAST)**. Appropriates to the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST); limits the salary of the executive director of OCAST.

**SB 123** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OCAST)**. Sets budgetary limitations for the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST); limits the executive director's salary.

**SB 150** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS/PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. Appropriates to the State Regents and the Physician Manpower Training Commission; limits the salary of the Commission director.

**SB 151** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS**. Appropriates to the State Regents.

**SB 152** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS /PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. Sets budgetary limitations for the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

**SB 166** (Haney/ Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS /PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. Modifies budgetary limitations of the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

**SB 176** (Haney/ Settle) - **UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES**. Clarifies language relating to unclassified service. (75 § 840.5-5)

**SB 177** (Haney/ Settle) - **FLEXIBLE BENEFITS**. Clarifies language relating to flexible benefit allowance of state employees. (74 § 1370)

**SB 178** (Haney/ Settle) - **DEFERRED SAVINGS**. Clarifies language relating to the state employees deferred savings incentive plan. (74 § 1707)

**SB 180** (Haney/ Settle) - **PROGRAM BUDGETING**. This is a shell bill relating to program budgeting. (62 § 41.44)

**SB 182** (Haney/ Settle) - **CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT**. This is a shell bill relating to the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority. (73 § 301)

**SB 183** (Haney/ Settle) - **PURCHASING**. This is a shell bill relating to the Central Purchasing Act. (74 § 85.2)

## 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 preemptive 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 1249** (Wilt) - **TOURISM/RESEARCH**. Repeals various sections of law including one that relates to the Tourism Department contracting with higher education institutions to do research. (68 § 50014)

**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 1271** (Seikel) - **STATEWIDE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM (STARS)/FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**. This is a shell bill relating to the Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS) and federal block grant funds. (56 § 230.50, 62 § 41.13a)

**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 1288** (Dale Smith) - **PUBLIC SCHOOL DEFINITION**. This is a shell bill relating to the definition of public schools, which includes two years of junior college work. (70 § 1-106)

**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 1318** (Stanley) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/FREEDOM OF CHOICE**. This is a shell bill relating to the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act. (36 § 6053)

**HB 1338** (Davis) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/INFERTILITY**. Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for diagnosis and treatment of infertility; provides list of certain types of covered treatments; provides certain conditions for coverage; provides an exemption from the requirements for coverage for certain religion-affiliated entities; provides for application of deductibles, copayments or coinsurance. (36 § 6060.7)

**HB 1342** (Davis) - **TUITION TRUST**. This is a shell bill relating to the Tuition Trust Act. (70 § 6002)

**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 1355** (Gray) - **PHYSICIAN PROFILE INFORMATION**. States legislative intent to provide easily accessible information on Oklahoma physicians; requires physicians applying for licensure or re-licensure to provide comprehensive information about the physician's education, practice, disciplinary actions and criminal history involving moral turpitude; requires the Health Department to annually publish and make available to the public the summary results of utilization information gathered from physicians for certain categories of procedures; requires that summary information and provider profiles be made available to the public upon request; provides penalties. (63 §§ 2550.1, 2550.2)

**HB 1357** (Gray) - **DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING**. This is a shell bill relating to drug and alcohol testing. (40 § 554)

**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 1374** (Lindley) - **ORTHOTISTS/PROSTHETISTS**. Creates the "Oklahoma Licensed Orthotists and Prosthetists Act"; provides for licensure, regulations and continuing education for the dispensing of therapeutic shoes and prosthetic devices by the State Board of Health. (59 §§ 3001/3011)

**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 1377** (Ervin) - **JOB TRAINING**. Creates the "Workforce Training Incentive Act"; provides an income tax credit for a percentage of the cost of a qualified employee training expense incurred by an eligible employer, based upon the number of workers employed by the employer as identified in a job training expense plan; prohibits an employer from receiving a credit for more than 50 employees in a taxable year; requires the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission to develop a method to evaluate plans for training expenses that qualify as eligible for such credit; requires an employer, in order to be eligible for such credit, to file a job training expense plan with the Commission. (68 §§ 2357.35/2357.37)

**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 1439** (Glover) - **STATEWIDE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM (STARS)**. Provides that hourly employment approved by the Department of Human Services as required

work activity for Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System recipients must meet federal minimum wage, taxation and safety requirements; provides that failure of teen parent recipients to graduate from high school or obtain a GED shall be grounds for termination of benefits under the STARS program. (56 § 230.52)

**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 1469** (Langmacher) - **INCOME TAX/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**. Recodifies provisions relating to adjustments to income for tax purposes, including provision for tax adjustments for transfers of technology to qualified small business. (68 § 2358B)

**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 1497** (Wilt) - **TEACHER BONUSES**. Requires the State Board of Education to provide to middle or secondary math or science teachers an annual bonus of \$4,000, which shall not be calculated in the salary of the teacher for purposes of meeting the statutory minimum salary schedule. (70 § 6-205)

**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 1564** (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS/PMTC/OCAST/ TEACHER PREP/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. This is a general appropriations bill which appropriates to the State Regents, the Physician Manpower Training Commission, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), and the University Hospitals Authority.

**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 1600** (Hiett) - **BUDGETING**. Provides for an "Oklahoma Zero Based Budgeting Act of 1999".

**HB 1611** (Reese) - **RAFFLES**. Eliminates existing exemptions from prohibiting against lotteries; provides exemptions for nonprofit religious, charitable, labor, fraternal and educational organizations to conduct raffles for charitable purposes. (21 § 1051)

**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/REMEDIAL 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 1647** (Deutschendorf) - **INTERNET HOMEWORK TUTORING**. Requires the State Board of Education to solicit proposals for and, if funds are available, make grants to local boards of education for establishment of pilot projects to aid in development of Internet homework tutoring chat rooms; requires that proposals for Internet chat rooms create a mechanism to allow students to contact and interact with teachers or other professionals when they are not at school, when the student needs assistance with courses or homework; directs the Board to determine pilot project criteria and establish a process for consideration of proposals; requires that proposals for pilot projects be considered on a statewide competitive basis; requires the Board, by Jan. 1, 2000, subject to availability of funds, to develop and implement a school testing assistance Internet web page to help students prepare for tests required under the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act and to provide remediation assistance to students who do not perform satisfactorily on such tests; requires that the web page contain information, materials and example questions that may be used by teachers, students and parents to assist students in preparing for the required tests; requires the web page also to identify the most difficult concepts incorporated in the tests and provide specific information, materials and example questions that will assist students in those areas. (70 §§ 1210.556, 1210.557)

**HB 1648** (Deutschendorf/Williams) - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY**. Creates a "Public School Technology Development Fund Act". (70 § 15-301)

**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 1683** (Dank) - **UNEMPLOYMENT**. Modifies definition of taxable wages, for purposes of the Employment Security Act of 1980, to 50 percent of the state's average annual wage for the second preceding year; modifies definition of maximum benefit amount to the lesser of 26 times the weekly benefit amount of the individual or 45 percent of taxable wage or 45 percent of the individual's wages for insured work paid during the individual's base period; deletes medical necessity and spousal work transfer from definition of good cause for leaving work. (40 §§ 1-223, 2-106, 2-405, 3-106)

**HB 1686** (Hastings) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. This is a shell bill relating to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Plan and the right of a state employee to change his primary care physician within an HMO. (74 § 1307.1)

**HB 1691** (Piatt) - **RAFFLES**. Authorizes nonprofit organizations, student groups and parent-teacher groups to conduct raffles for charitable purposes or school purposes. (21 § 1051)

**HB 1694** (Claunch) - **PURCHASING**. This is a shell bill creating the "Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act Corrections Act of 1999".

**HB 1696** (Pettigrew) - **RETIREMENT**. Provides for a "Pension Protection Act".

**HB 1697** (Greenwood) - **RETIREMENT/HEALTH INSURANCE**. Creates a Committee to Study Postemployment Health-Related Benefits to study benefits for employees who are terminating employment for disability reasons; requires committee to make recommendations by March 31, 2000. (56 § 4000)

**HB 1698** (Perry) - **COMPUTER CONVERSION FOR YEAR 2000**. Requires that any agency that does not meet the Jan. 1, 1999, deadline for conversion of computer systems for the year 2000 to file a monthly report with the legislative committee for the House of Representatives and the State Senate which review science and technology issues updating the progress of the agency. (62 § 41.5o)

**HB 1703** (Graves) - **DISCRIMINATION**. Prohibits the state from discriminating against, or granting preferential treatment to, an individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting; provides exceptions; provides penalties. (74 § 840-4.14a)

**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 1740** (Case) - **TELECOMMUNICATIONS/SCHOOL SAFETY**. Creates a School Safety Telecommunications Fund for the Department of Education; transfers \$2 million from the Oklahoma E911 Emergency Service Fund and \$2 million from the Oklahoma Telecommunications Technology Training Fund to the School Safety Telecommunications Fund; requires that such fund be used for site grants statewide to provide electronic communications to each classroom for telecommunications access in case of violent behavior exhibited in the classroom. (17 § 139.109, 70 § 5-117.4)

**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 1755** (Morgan) - **STATE-OWNED VEHICLES**. Requires that a toll-free telephone number that may be called to report negligent or reckless driving be painted on state-owned vehicles. (47 §§ 151, 156.3)

**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 1767** (Ervin) - **TELEMEDICINE**. This is a shell bill relating to telemedicine authority of the Department of Health. (63 § 1-2702)

**HB 1771** (Ervin) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Changes the name of the Special Indemnity Fund to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; requires the Board of managers of the State Insurance Fund to administer the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; authorizes the Board to transfer funds to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund to eliminate delinquent awards; requires reimbursement of insurance fund; makes the State Fund liable for premium taxes as if it were operating as a private carrier; requires that premium taxes be paid out of the fund's excess reserves and not passed on to policy holders so long as the fund is operating within the accepted industry standard of three-to-one premium-to-surplus ratio; provides that Multiple Injury Trust Fund awards shall accrue from the file date of the court order finding the claimant to be permanently and totally disabled; provides that a reopening of any prior injury claim other than the last employer injury claim shall not give a claimant the right to additional Multiple Injury Trust Fund benefits; provides that awards not claimed within two years of the date on which the award first become available shall be returned to the trust fund; requires that the premium tax on premiums collected by the State Insurance Fund be paid by the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the month of receipt to the state treasurer; requires that

0.25 percent of such funds be credited to the Attorney General for permanent total disability or permanent partial disability awards paid out or payable for the month, to be deposited in the Attorney General's Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit Revolving Fund, 0.25 percent to the Department of Vocational and Technical Education and all other monies to the trust fund so long as the fund has reserves of not more than \$5 million; requires that remaining premium tax monies be deposited in the General Revenue Fund, once the trust fund has reserves of more than \$5 million. (36 § 631)

**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 1773 (Stites) - RETIREMENT.** Provides for an "Oklahoma Governmental Defined Benefit Plan Modification Act of 1999".

**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 1790 (Miller) - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Provides for an "Economic Development Matching Grant Implementation Act of 1999".

**HB 1795 (Hopper Smith) - PORNOGRAPHY ON INTERNET.** Sets penalty for obscenity-related crimes on the Internet at a fine of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$50,000. (21 § 1021)

**HB 1796 (Hopper Smith) - TAX CREDIT/CHARITABLE DONATION.** Provides an income tax credit for charitable donations in the amount of 50 percent of the donation; limits credit to not exceed 25 percent of the total income tax liability. (68 § 2357.28)

**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 1812** (Ferguson) - **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**. This is a shell bill relating to financial incentive awards for advanced placement programs. (70 § 1210.703)

**HB 1813** (Leonard Sullivan) - **WAGE DEDUCTIONS**. Prohibits an employer from deducting funds from wages of an employee that will be used as a contribution or expenditure except upon the written request of the employee within the previous 12 months; prohibits labor organizations from using dues or other fees to make contributions or expenditures except on the written authorization of the individual within the previous 12 months. (40 § 197.6a)

**HB 1818** (Adair) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. This is a shell bill relating to rehabilitation and job placement. (85 § 16)

**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 1823** (Dale Smith) - **WILDLIFE LANDS/STUDENTS**. Authorizes the Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a special use permit for use on lands owned or managed by the department; authorizes the Commission to assess an annual fee not to exceed \$25 for the permit; provides exemptions from permit requirements for certain students. (29 § 4-137)

**HB 1826** (Boyd) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/EXTERNAL REVIEW**. Creates the "Oklahoma Managed Care External Review Act"; provides that any person insured with managed care shall have the right to an external review by an independent review organization of a decision under a health benefit plan; entitles an insured person to a certain amount toward the cost of external review; requires the State Board of Health to promulgate rules for the certification of independent review organizations. (36 § 6471/6480)

**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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