



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friday, May 28, 1999

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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From: Bryce Fair & Carolyn McCoy

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## Highlights This Week:

*[Note: This Legislative Update contains primarily legislative information updated through yesterday, Thursday, May 27. A more complete report will be available early next week.]*

**Rainy Day Funds Appropriated:** With only a few hours left in the legislative session, the House and Senate passed HB 1565 appropriating over \$148 million from the state's "Rainy Day Fund", including \$23.5 million for higher education. With this funding, higher education's appropriations for FY2000 total \$771 million, an increase of \$13.2 million or 1.7%.

House roll call vote on HB 1565: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/house/okh01172.txt>

**Tuition Bill Sent to Governor:** On Wednesday, the House and Senate approved HB 1296, the tuition increase bill. The bill authorizes increases of 8% at the comprehensive universities, 7% at the four-year and two-year universities, and 10% for most professional programs. The House passed the bill by a vote of 71-27 while the Senate vote was 44-2 (Sen. Larry Dickerson, D - Poteau and Sen. Frank Shurden, D - Henryetta voting no.). The vote margins were sufficient to carry the bill's "emergency" clause which allows the tuition increase to be effective for the start of the fall semester. The House vote contrasts sharply with the last tuition vote in 1997. That year, the bill passed by a single vote margin and the emergency clause failed. This forced the use of a "blended" rate for the fall 1997 semester.

The bill does not include any increases in the statutory limits for special student fees—such as the student health fee, library resource fees, and student facility fees—which had been requested by several institutions.

The House roll call vote is available at: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/house/okh01093.txt>

The Senate roll call vote is not available online.

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1296\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1296_enr.rtf)

**Education Reform Bill Includes New College Scholarship, Though Implementation Delayed:** On Thursday, the House and Senate passed a massive education reform measure that includes the controver-

sial issues of charter schools, open school transfer, and a new mandatory high school core curriculum. Also included in the bill is a new merit-based Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Program. However, the bill contains two provisions that delay the start of the new scholarship program. First, Oklahoma's per pupil expenditures (at the K-12 level) must reach 90% of the regional average. The 1998-99 school year will be the first year for which the percentage is calculated and that data is not expected to be available for up to two years. Second, students eligible for the scholarship must be awarded a "diploma of honor" [see below] and the diploma will not be issued until the high school graduating class of 2003.

The new scholarship program includes the following provisions:

- The scholarship would cover tuition for the first two years of college-- a maximum of 60 semester credit hours and no more than 30 hours in one year.
- The scholarship could be used at any public or private college in the state or vo-tech program covered by a cooperative agreement between an area vo-tech school and a two-year college.
- The student would have to be a resident of Oklahoma for at least two years prior to high school graduation.
- The student would have to achieve a high school "diploma of honor" which requires a 3.0 GPA in a specified 13.5-unit core curriculum based primarily on ACT's recommended core.
- The student would have to score a 22 or higher on the ACT.
- The student's family income could not exceed \$70,000.
- The student would have to meet regular admission standards for the type of institution in which they were enrolling.
- The student would have to make application for state and federal financial aid.
- The student would have to be free from convictions for certain criminal/delinquent offenses.
- The student would have to maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA in college to remain eligible for the scholarship.
- The scholarship could not pay for remedial courses.
- Any other state or federal aid the student received for tuition would reduce or eliminate the amount of the award for this scholarship.

The State Regents' office has estimated the cost of the scholarships at \$5.7 million in the first year and \$10 million or more each year thereafter.

***Governor Approves \$1.6 Million Appropriation:*** On Thursday, the Governor signed SB 150, which appropriates \$1.6 million to higher education and expresses legislative intent that the money be used for the Oklahoma State University Agricultural Extension Division. The bill also calls for the State Regents to develop outcome-based performance measures for each program they administer.

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb150\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb150_enr.rtf)

***Rogers State University Transfer Approved:*** Also on Thursday, the Governor signed SB 164 which moves the governance of Rogers State University in Claremore from the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges to the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb164\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb164_enr.rtf)

***Bill Transfers Rehab Center to State Regents:*** In an unusual move, the Legislature voted to transfer the George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute in Okmulgee from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the State Regents for Higher Education. The bill calls for the State Regents to determine which higher education institution best fits the facility's mission and purpose. The bill specifies that the State Regents transfer the institute to another higher education institution by November 1, 1999.

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1527\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1527_enr.rtf)

***Bill on President Contracts Passes House, Barely:*** SB 151, which calls for a state vote to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to allow contracts of up to three years for college presidents, passed the House this week by the narrowest of margins. The final vote on the bill was 51-45, the minimum number of yes votes necessary. The bill's emergency clause, which allows the bill to become effective sooner than 90 days after the end of session, was passed by a vote of 68-27-- also the minimum number of votes to approve an emergency clause. The bill cleared the Senate last week by a 33-5 vote and now goes to the Governor for his consideration.

Besides the provision on president's contracts, the bill also includes the following items:

- authorization for a master leasing program
- amendments to the petty cash fund statutes for higher education

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb151\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb151_enr.rtf)

***OTAG Bill Sent to Governor:*** A bill amending the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) program, the state's primary need-based grant program, passed the Senate and House easily this week and awaits action by the Governor. SB 196 passed the Senate on Monday by a 43-0 vote and the House on Tuesday by a 98-1 vote. The bill makes OTAG policy consistent with federal financial aid policy on minimum student enrollment, minimum academic program length, and student financial need assessment. It also allows the State Regents to increase the maximum award amount, but only if at least the same number of students can be served. This provision will require additional funds to be allocated to the program before the cap can be increased. The current \$1,000 limit on awards has not been increased since 1982. The bill also creates the Oklahoma Task Force on Qualified State Tuition Plans to study the viability of the Oklahoma Tuition Trust Act (prepaid tuition program) and its potential for enhancing or detracting from the implementation of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan Act.

The text of the bill is available at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb196\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00SB/sb196_enr.rtf)

***Teachers Retirement Revenue Source Changed:*** HB 1574, signed by the Governor on Thursday, will alter the funding structure for the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (OTRS) that was changed just last year. Under existing law, OTRS was to begin receiving 3.25% of the State General Revenue Fund beginning in FY2000; the level would have increased to 3.5% in FY2001. The change was made last year to give the OTRS system a more predictable and growing revenue source than the gross production tax on natural gas, a primary funding source of OTRS for many years. Based on the current law, the Legislature appropriated \$135.8 million to OTRS earlier this session in the general appropriations bill, SB 161. Under HB 1574, the legislative appropriation from the General Revenue Fund is replaced by earmarking 3.54% of sales tax and income tax directly to a new OTRS fund. The bill also requires the money to be applied to the system's current unfunded liability. For FY2000, the bill places a cap of \$136 million that can be collected into the new fund. In future years, the cap would be removed.

The text of the bill can be found at: [http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1574\\_enr.rtf](http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/hb1574_enr.rtf)

***Gubernatorial Appointments Confirmed:*** This week, the Senate confirmed the following nominations to higher education governing boards and other education entities.

- Sidney Anderson, Tulsa, to Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2003, serving in a new position.
- Steven Blankenship, Idabel, to the Board of Trustees for the McCurtain County Higher Education Program, to serve a nine-year term ending June 30, 2008, succeeding Linda DeBerry. (Rabon)
- Stephen Cropper, Tulsa, to the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2005, serving in a new position. (Ford)
- Dorothy DeWitty, Tulsa, to the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2000, serving in a new position. (Horner)
- John Dickman, Tulsa, to the State Textbook Committee, to serve a three-year term ending March 1, 2002, serving in a vacant position. (Williamson)
- Jay Helm, Tulsa, to the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2004, serving in a new position. (Ford)
- Ginger Henton, Altus, to the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, to serve a seven-year term ending June 30, 2005, succeeding Terri Taflinger. (Kerr)
- Ed Hicks, Duncan, to the Board of Regents of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, to serve a seven-year term ending June 30, 2006, succeeding Truman Harris. (Martin)
- Valerie Ingram, Norman, to the State Textbook Committee, to serve a three year term ending March 1, 2002, succeeding Shirley Starkey. (Weedn)
- John Kahre, Ramona, to the Teachers Retirement System Board of Trustees, to serve a four-year term ending July 1, 2003, succeeding himself. (Campbell)

- Ed Keller, Tulsa, to the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2006, serving in a new position. (Williamson)
- Sharon King-Davis, Tulsa, to the Board of Trustees for Oklahoma State University/Tulsa, to serve a term ending June 30, 2001, serving in a new position. (Ford)
- Donna Moesel, Oklahoma City, to the Board of Regents for Redlands Community College, to serve a seven-year term ending April 22, 2006, succeeding Richard Fogg. (Johnson)
- Lawrence Reed, Tulsa, to the Board of Regents for Tulsa Community College, to serve a seven-year term ending June 30, 2006, succeeding himself.
- Randall Ward, McAlester, to the Board of Regents for Eastern State College, to serve a seven-year term ending June 1, 2006, succeeding himself. (Stipe)
- Wade Watkins, Ardmore, to the Board of Regents for Murray State College, to serve an unexpired term ending June 1, 2005, succeeding Martin Van Meter. (Crutchfield)

**Text of Bills:** To review a text of any bill, go to: <http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/docs/billtext.html>

**Status of Bills:** To find the current status of any bill, go to: <http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/>

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- none

Note: For the most current updates on legislative committee meetings go to:

House of Representatives homepage: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/house/meetings.htm>

Senate homepage at: <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/senate/meetingnotices.html>.

### **Upcoming Legislative Deadlines:**

June 12, 1999 .....Deadline for Governor’s Action on Bills

## **Actions on Bills This Week:**

### SENATE ACTIONS

#### Bills Passed on Senate Floor:

SB 34 - Teacher certification; speech-language pathology  
SB 89 - Education Oversight Board  
SB 178 - Deferred savings  
SB 196 - OTAG  
SCR 58 - Langston University state plan  
SR 28 - Lions Clubs Mobile Screening Unit  
SR 33 - George Washington commemoration  
SR 36 - Jay McShann, Jazz Hall of Fame  
HB 1048 - Thistle eradication reports - OSU  
HB 1152 - Livestock activities liability  
HB 1201 - Academic Scholars  
HB 1263 - Classroom technology/OneNet  
HB 1296 - Tuition/fees  
HB 1318 -Health insurance - Freedom of Choice  
HB 1364 - Education Leadership Oklahoma  
HB 1458 - Health insurance  
HB 1510 - Appropriations  
HB 1523 - Appropriations  
HB 1527 - George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute  
HB 1574 - Retirement  
HB 1584 - Sales tax exemption  
HB 1588 - Health insurance  
HB 1599 - School testing  
HB 1681- Health insurance - accountability  
HB 1748 - Health insurance - behavioral health  
HB 1759 - Education reform  
HB 1846 - Leave sharing  
HCR 1035 - City of McAlester  
HCR 1045 - Virtual University Task Force  
HCR 1047 - Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month  
HCR 1059 - African-American graduate students

### HOUSE ACTIONS

#### Bills Passed on House Floor:

SB 34 - Teacher certification; speech-language pathology  
SB 89 - Education Oversight Board  
SB 151 - Appropriations - State Regents  
SB 164 - Rogers State University governance board  
SB 178 - Deferred savings  
SB 196 - OTAG  
SB 361 - Retirement

SB 373 - Health insurance  
SB 411 - Health insurance  
SB 504 - Teachers' Retirement System  
SCR 11 - UCO Students in Free Enterprise  
HB 1048 - Thistle eradication reports - OSU  
HB 1152 - Livestock activities liability  
HB 1201 - Academic Scholars  
HB 1263 - Classroom technology/OneNet  
HB 1296 - Tuition/fees  
HB 1364 - Education Leadership Oklahoma  
HB 1458 - Health insurance  
HB 1527 - George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute  
HB 1574 - Retirement  
HB 1584 - Sales tax exemption  
HB 1592 - Northeastern State University/Literacy Center  
HB 1599 - School testing  
HB 1681 - Health insurance - accountability  
HB 1748 - Health insurance - behavioral health  
HB 1759 - Education reform  
HCR 1059 - African-American graduate students  
HCR 1065 - Health insurance - enrollment period

**Bills Passed in Committee:**

SCR 19 - UCO revenue bonds  
SCR 20 - UCO revenue bonds  
SCR 21 - UCO revenue bonds  
SCR 22 - OCCC revenue bonds  
SCR 34 - OU revenue bonds

**Bills Failed on House Floor:**

SB 473 - Lotteries

**GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS**

**Bills Sent to the Governor:**

SB 34 - Teacher certification; speech-language pathology  
SB 89 - Education Oversight Board  
SB 151 - Appropriations - State Regents  
SB 178 - Deferred savings  
SB 196 - OTAG  
SB 296 - Health insurance - dentistry  
SB 361 - Retirement  
SB 373 - Health insurance  
SB 411 - Health insurance  
SB 504 - Teachers' Retirement System  
SB 763 - Paraprofessionals  
HB 1152 - Livestock activities liability  
HB 1296 - Tuition/fees  
HB 1318 - Health insurance - Freedom of Choice  
HB 1364 - Education Leadership Oklahoma

HB 1458 - Health insurance  
HB 1527 - George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute  
HB 1574 - Retirement  
HB 1584 - Sales tax exemption  
HB 1681 - Health insurance - accountability  
HB 1748 - Health insurance - behavioral health

Bills Signed by the Governor:

SB 102 - OHLAP  
SB 121 - Appropriations - OCAST  
SB 150 - Appropriations - State Regents, Physician Manpower Training Commission  
SB 164 - Rogers State University governance board  
SB 272 - Retirement - life insurance  
SB 376 - Privatization of state functions  
SB 439 - Health insurance  
SB 480 - Technology confidentiality  
SB 508 - Purchasing - contracts  
SB 647 - State agency accounts  
SB 715 - Teacher Preparation  
SB 750 - Grant fund audits  
SB 758 - Social studies curriculum  
SB 763 - Paraprofessionals  
HB 1048 - Thistle eradication reports - OSU  
HB 1118 - Vehicles donated to higher ed institutions  
HB 1136 - Administrative procedures  
HB 1140 - Health insurance  
HB 1201 - Academic Scholars  
HB 1411 - Electronic signatures  
HB 1428 - Retirement - Teachers' Deferred Savings Incentive Plan  
HB 1510 - Appropriations  
HB 1523 - Appropriations  
HB 1574 - Retirement  
HB 1588 - Health insurance  
HB 1650 - Virtual Internet school  
HB 1745 - Health insurance - accountability  
HB 1767 - Telemedicine  
HB 1809 - Chiropractic education scholarships

Bills Vetoed by the Governor:

SB 409 - Master lease  
HB 1771 - Workers' Compensation

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Bills Added to the List:

SB 34 - Curriculum examination, speech-language pathologists  
SCR 58 - Langston University state plan  
SR 34 - Charles B. Dodson, graduate of Eastern A&M and OSU

SR 36 - Jay McShann, Jazz Hall of Fame  
HB 1048 - Thistle eradication reports - OSU  
HB 1527 - George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute  
HB 1584 - Sales tax exemption for colleges or universities  
HCR 1059 - African-American graduate students  
HCR 1065 - Health insurance enrollment period

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)].

**INDEX**  
**BILLS OF INTEREST TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION**  
Forty-Seventh Legislature – First Session 1999  
May 28, 1999

Academic Scholars, HB 1201  
Academy schools, SB 747  
Administrative Procedures, HB 1130, HB 1136  
African-American graduate students, HCR 1059  
Agency accounts, SB 647  
Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program, HB 1197  
Alcohol/drug abuse, SB 715  
Allen, Bob, OETA, SCR 17  
Alternative education, HB 1759  
American Sign Language, HB 1659  
Answering machines, SB 19  
Anthony Pharmacy Lecture at OU, HR 1014  
Appropriations  
    Advanced Placement Initiatives, HB 1510  
    Albert, Carl, campus at Sallisaw, SB 150  
    Alliance for Geographic Education, HB 1510  
    Children First, HB 1523  
    Common Education Classroom Technology Fund, HB 1510  
    Community Education Grants, HB 1510  
    Eastern Oklahoma State College campus at McAlester, SB 150  
    Education Leadership Oklahoma, HB 1510  
    Great Expectations Summer Institutes scholarships, HB 1510  
    Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus at Woodward, SB 150  
    Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), SB 121, SB 123,  
        SB 161, HB 1564  
    Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, SB 161, HB 1510  
    Oklahoma State University Agriculture Extension Program, SB 150  
    Physician Manpower Training Commission, SB 150, SB 152, SB 161, HB 1564  
    State Regents, SB 150, SB 151, SB 161, HB 1564, HB 1566  
    Teacher Preparation Commission, SB 161, HB 1510, HB 1515, HB 1564  
    Teachers' Retirement System, SB 161  
    Telecommunications curriculum, HB 1510  
    University Hospitals, SB 161, HB 1523, HB 1528, HB 1564  
    University of Oklahoma perinatal services, HB 1523  
Asbestos abatement, HB 1537  
  
Berrong, Sen. Edwin, SR 4  
Board employees, SB 10  
Bonds, revenue, SCR 19, SCR 20, SCR 21, SCR 22, SCR 33, SCR 34  
Bright, Dr. William R., SJR 21

Budgeting, SB 180, HB 1001X, HB 1622

Cameron State University former student, Sen. L. Beauchamp Selman, SR 29

Campus security, SB 517, SCR 18

Capitol improvement, SB 182, HB 1003X

Carl Albert State College branch campus at Sallisaw, SB 150

Certificates of distinction, HB 1759

Charter schools, HB 1759

College savings plan, SB 196, SB 372

Computer malfunction liability, HB 1413

Consumer credit education, SCR 3

Contracts, multi-year, for presidents, SB 151

Curriculum standards, SB 758, HB 1599, HB 1759, HR 1026

Curriculum testing, SB 34

Dangerous substances, HB 1203

Deferred compensation/savings, SB 178, SR 21

Dentistry, SB 296, HB 1351

Diploma of Honor, HB 1759

Dodson, Dr. Charles B., SR 34

Drug/alcohol abuse courses, SB 715

Durant, Magnolia Capital of Oklahoma, SCR 39

Eastern Oklahoma State College

Extension at McAlester, SB 150, HCR 1035

Graduate, Dr. Charles B. Dodson

Education Leadership Oklahoma program, HB 1364

Education Oversight Board, SB 89

Educational standards, SB 784

Electronic signatures, HB 1411

Endowment funds, HB 1063

Enid Higher Education Program, SB 150

Fees/nonresident tuition, HB 1296

Finance authority for higher education, SB 409

Financial institutions, SB 647

Flexible benefits, SB 177

4-H Day, HCR 1034

Funeral directors/embalmers education requirements, SB 86

Genetic research, HB 1368

Grants/fellowships, report of funds, SB 750

Hazard mitigation, HB 1841

Income assignment, SB 721

Insurance, health

Accountability, HB 1681, HB 1745

Administration, SB 373

Authority, SB 354

Insurance, health (cont'd)

Behavioral care, HB 1748  
Beginning date, HB 1588  
Chiropractic services coverage, HB 1809  
Consumer protection, HB 1399, HB 1681, HB 1826  
Dental, HB 1664  
Dependent coverage, SB 373, SB 721, HB 1458  
For employees on leave without pay, HB 1140  
Enrollment period, SB 373, SCR 25, HCR 1065  
Freedom of Choice, SB 108, SB 411, HB 1318  
Hearing aids for children, SB 685  
Mental illness, SB 2  
Prostate cancer screening, HB 1210  
Rates, SB 373  
Reimbursement rates, SB 439  
Risk adjustment factor, SB 373

Insurance, life, SB 272, SB 441, HB 1588

International Student Awareness, HCR 1027

Internet

Homework tutoring, HB 1647  
Sample tests on, HB 1599, HB 1647  
Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION), HB 1650

Job training, HB 1377, HCR 1021

Langston University, SCR 58

Leave

Donated, SB 323, HB 1846  
Paid administrative for tornado victims, HB 1846, SCR 38  
Sharing, HB 1846

Licensed Behavioral Practitioner Act, SB 380

Lions' Clubs Mobile Screening Unit, SR 28

Livestock activities liability, HB 1152

Long-range plans, HB 1622

Lotteries, SB 473

Master lease program, SB 151

McAlester's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, HCR 1035

McShann, Jay, SR 36

Murray State College, HB 1069

National Board Certification, HB 1759

Nigh, George, Rehabilitation Institute, HB 1527

Northeastern State University

Center for the Study of Literacy, HB 1592

Graduate, Dr. William R. Bright, SJR 21

Graduate Student, Lynn Peacher, SR 2

Representative on Speech-Language Pathologists Task Force, SB 34

Northwestern Oklahoma State University campus at Woodward, SB 150

Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month, HCR 1047

Occupational therapy, SR 20  
Oil production revenues, HB 1003X  
Oklahoma City Community College revenue bonds, SCR 22  
Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA), SCR 17, HB 1592, HB 1650  
Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, SB 102  
Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, SR 32  
Oklahoma State University  
    African-American graduate students, HCR 1059  
Oklahoma State University (cont'd)  
    Cooperative Extension Services, HB 1048, HCR 1034  
    Graduate, Charles B. Dodson  
    Graduate, Lynn Peacher, SR 2  
    Graduate, Roy Peters Jr., SCR 24  
    NCAA invitation, HR 1012  
    President on Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program Board, HB 1197  
    Professor, Larkin Warner  
    Representative on Speech-Language Pathologists Task Force, SB 34  
    Research workers, SR 28  
    Revenue bonds, SCR 33  
    Student, Faren Lee Revard, HCR 1038  
    Thistle eradication reports, HB 1048  
Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG), SB 196  
OneNet, HB 1263, HB 1649

Paraprofessionals, public school, SB 763  
Peacher, Lynn, Teacher of the Year, SR 2  
Peters, Roy, Jr., SCR 24  
POW/MIA Recognition Day, SB 43  
Punitive damages, SB 669  
Purchasing, SB 183, SB 508, HB 1293

#### Retirement

    Annualized earnings, SB 504  
    Benefit  
        Calculation, SB 602  
        Increase, SB 610  
    Deferred option, SR 21, HB 1428  
    Funding, SB 361, HB 1574  
    Funding from Tobacco settlement, HB 1002  
    Life insurance, SB 272  
    Portability, SR 21  
    Reauthorization of benefits, HB 1005  
Revard, Faren Lee, HCR 1038  
Rogers State University, SB 164

#### Scholarships

    Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program, HB 1809  
    For Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics students, SR 32  
    Tuition Incentive Act, SB 787

Scholarships (cont's)

Tuition Scholarship Act, HB 1759  
School land funds, SB 36, SB 37, SB 60, SJR 2  
School safety, SB 715, HB 1649  
Science and Technology Month, SR 17, HR 1015  
Selman, Sen. L. Beauchamp, SR 29  
Sick leave, SB 323  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University magnolia trees, SCR 39  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University attendee, Sen. Edwin Berrong, SR 4  
Space industry, SB 720, SJR 25  
Speech-language pathologists, SB 34  
Stipe, Sen. Gene, SCR 37  
Student loans, SB 224  
Surplus equipment, SB 38

Tax Exemption for

Colleges and universities, HB 1584  
Interest income, HB 1119  
Technology transfer, HB 1469

Teacher

Awards, HB 1759  
Competency exams, SB 66  
Forgivable loans for, HB 1759  
Preparation, SB 66, SB 715, HB 1599  
Salaries, HB 1759

Technology

Advisory Board, SB 366  
Confidentiality, SB 480  
Incentive Fund, SB 713  
School, HB 1263, HB 1649, HB 1650  
Space, SJR 25  
Transfer, SB 552  
Telemedicine, HB 1344, HB 1767, HCR 1024  
Testing, school, SB 697, SB 784, HB 1599, HB 1759  
Thistle eradication, HB 1048  
Trademark Anti-Counterfeiting, SB 589  
Travel reimbursement, SB 505  
Tuition/Fees, HB 1296  
Tuition Incentive Act, SB 787  
Tuition Scholarship Fund, HB 1003X  
Tuition Trust, SB 196  
Tulsa Junior College bill sponsor, Sen. L. Beauchamp Selman, SR 29

University of Central Oklahoma

Representative on Speech-Language Pathologists Task Force, SB 34  
Revenue bonds, SCR 19, SCR 20, SCR 21  
Students in Free Enterprise, SCR 11

University of Oklahoma

African-American graduate students, HCR 1059  
Anthony pharmacy lecture series, HR 1014

University of Oklahoma (cont'd)

Attendee, Sen. Edwin Berrong, SR 4

Climatological survey, HB 1841

College of Medicine, HR 1011

Graduate, Roy Peters Jr., SCR 24

Graduate, Sen. L. Beauchamp Selman, SR 29

Health Sciences Center, SR 20, HCR 1047

Law School graduate, Sen. Gene Stipe, SCR 37

Memorial Union, SCR 9

NCAA invitation, HR 1012

Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, SCR 17

Representative on Speech-Language Pathologists Task Force, SB 34

Revenue bonds, SCR 34

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma representative on speech-language pathology task force,  
SB 34

Vehicles donated to higher education institutions, HB 1118

Veterinary medicine schools, HB 1344

Virtual University Task Force, HCR 1045

Voice mail, SB 19

Vouchers, SB 647

Warner, Larkin, HCR 1052

Washington, George, commemoration, SR 33

Workers' Compensation, SB 680, HB 1300, HB 1771

## BILLS OF INTEREST TO HIGHER EDUCATION

### OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Forty-Seventh Legislature – First Session 1999  
Status Reported as of May 27, 1999

#### SENATE BILLS

**SB 2** (Taylor/Benson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS.** Defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; requires health benefit plans to provide benefits for treatment of severe mental illness; requires that such benefits be equal to benefits for treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for coverage provided by health benefit plans for small employers; exempts a health benefit plan that, at the end of its base period, experiences a greater than 2-percent increase in premium costs; requires the Insurance Commissioner to analyze the direct incremental impact on premium costs for requiring health plans to include severe mental illness benefits; requires the Commissioner to submit a report by May 1, 2000; requires that the final report include, to the extent possible, an analysis of direct or indirect benefit of requiring benefits for treatment of severe mental illness; provides that, if the report shows that the cumulative average premium increase during the first three years of implementation of the act that is directly attributable to the mental illness benefits is greater than 6 percent, the requirements shall terminate May 1, 2003. (36 §§ 6060.10/6060.13)

**5/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 10** (Ford/Adair) - **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; provides that the bill shall not apply to a statewide elected official who is an ex officio member of a board or commission. (74 § 4257)

**4/19/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 19** (Maddox/Paulk) - **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)

3/9/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (37-8)

4/5/99 Bill Passed - House (98-3)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

**SB 34** (Crutchfield/Boyd) - **CURRICULUM EXAMINATIONS/SPEECH PATHOLOGY.** Authorizes teacher certification in administration of persons who successfully completed the curriculum examination prior to May 1, 1999, and completes a masters degree in school administration or education administration from an accredited institution of higher education prior to Dec. 31, 1999; provides for a three-year extension of a provisional certificate in speech-language pathology for individuals who held a provisional certificate during the 1998-99 school year in speech-language pathology; allows annual re-

newal of such provisional certification, beginning July 1, 2002, subject to documentation of admission to and progress toward completion of the relevant master's degree program; creates the Task Force on Speech-Language Pathologists in the Public Schools; includes on the task force the Chancellor or designee and a representative from each degree-granting speech-language pathology higher education program within the state.

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (88-0)

5/26/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 36** (Herbert/Glover) - **SCHOOL LAND FUNDS**. Requires monthly distribution from permanent school funds, other educational funds and public building funds; requires that the percentage of annual distribution from the trust funds held by the Commissioners of the Land Office be 5 percent of the average of the fiscal-year-end market value for the preceding three fiscal years; requires that the market value of the trust funds be established using the fiscal-year-end-balance of the total trust funds held by the custodial bank; provides that the act will become effective upon passage of the constitutional amendment proposed in SJR 2. (64 § 51.A)

**4/26/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 37** (Herbert/Glover) - **SCHOOL LAND FUNDS**. Removes restrictions on the investment of permanent school funds and other educational funds; allows investment of permanent school and other educational funds only in bonds issued in the U.S. and U.S.-dollar-denominated or other investments settled in U.S. dollars or traded on the U.S. exchange markets; prohibits the Commissioners of the Land Office from investing more than 45 percent of the permanent common school fund, other educational funds and public building funds in equity securities; requires that the 45-percent-limitation be increased by 5 percent over a three-year period, until it reaches 50 percent; requires the Commissioners to reserve and retain forever title to all oil, gas and other mineral rights in and under all lands to be sold or designated for certain purposes; prohibits the Commissioners from selling any oil, gas or other mineral interest under their jurisdiction without prior legislative approval. (64 § 51)

**4/26/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 38** (Morgan/Corn) - **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**. Authorizes state agencies to dispose of obsolete or surplus equipment to entities within the State System. (62 § 120.1)

**4/7/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 43** (Helton/Kirby) - **POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**. Designates the third Friday of September of each year as POW/MIA Recognition Day; authorizes and requests 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 Action. (25 § 90.13)

**4/5/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 60** (Herbert/Glover) - **SCHOOL LAND FUNDS**. Changes the nature of funds to be distributed by the Commissioners of the Land Office. (70 §§ 614, 3904)

**4/26/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 66** (Williams/Boyd) - **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)

**4/7/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 86** (Weedn/Hilliard) - **FUNERAL DIRECTORS/EMBALMERS/ EDUCATION**. Changes the accreditation entity for approved programs of mortuary science from the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States to the American Board of Funeral Service Education; specifies qualifications for funeral directors; modifies requirements for reciprocal licensing of embalmers and funeral directors. (59 § 396.3)

**4/7/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 89** (Williams/Roberts) - **EDUCATION OVERSIGHT BOARD**. Modifies residency requirements for members of the Education Oversight Board to require that at least one appointed member reside in each congressional district. (70 § 3-116)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (41-0)

5/24/99 Emergency Passed - Senate (42-0)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (100-0)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 102** (Horner/Stites) - **OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM (OHLAP)**. Modifies eligibility for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program; removes language that required eligible students to maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average “irrespective of honor points”; allows financial need to be established during the eighth-grade year as well as the 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 \$32,000, instead of the current \$24,000. (70 §§ 2603/2605)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (29-14)

5/17/99 Emergency Failed - Senate

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-1)

**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 108** (Long/Gilbert) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/FREEDOM OF CHOICE**. Expands locations at which services and procedures covered under an accident and health insurance policy may be performed pursuant to the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act to include ambulatory surgical centers; includes such centers in types of facilities for which a provision, exclusion or limitation in an accident and health insurance policy shall be void. (36 §§ 6054, 6056, 6057)

3/2/99 Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)

3/31/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-0)

4/14/99 In Conference Committee

5/26/99 Conferees Disagree

**SB 121** (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OCAST)**. Appropriates \$16,963 from the General Revenue Fund to the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST); redesignates \$100,000 in FY'99 funds appropriated to the agency to be used for a study of the activities of OCAST.

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-0)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (85-11)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

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

2/9/99 Amended and Passed - Senate (48-0)

3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-2)

4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 150** (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS/PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. Section 1 appropriates \$1.6 million to the State Regents; Section 2 appropriates \$127,398 to the State Regents; Section 3 authorizes the State Regents to expend \$12 million of funds allocated in Section 18 of SB 161; Section 4 transfers between \$840,000 and \$850,000 from the Department of Human Services Revenue Bonds, Series 1987, issued by the Enid Improvement and Redevelopment Authority to the State Regents; Section 5 states legislative intent that funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act be allocated to the OSU Agriculture Extension Program; Section 6 requires the State Regents to develop outcome-based performance measures for each program and activity administered by the State Regents; Sections 7 authorizes the provision of resources to the branch campus of Eastern State College in McAlester; Section 8 authorizes the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges to provide resources to the Woodward campus of Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Section 9 deletes the requirement for locally provided physical plant accommodations for the Enid Higher Education Program and allows the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges to provide resources to the Enid program; Section 10 authorizes the Carl Albert State College Board of Regents to provided resources to the Carl Albert branch campus at Sallisaw; Sections 11 - 13 pertain to and allocate \$130,784 to the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (96-2)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 151** (Haney/Settle) - **PRESIDENTS' CONTRACTS/MASTER LEASE**. This is a shell bill that appropriates to the State Regents. The conference committee substitute proposes a constitutional amendment and enacts new law to authorize multi-year contracts for presidents of State System institutions, limiting the term of such contracts to three years; authorizes the State Regents to establish a master lease program to finance acquisition of items of personal property to enable institutions and entities to achieve cost-saving efficiencies; authorizes lease transactions of from \$50,000 to \$5 million; authorizes the Regents to reduce the allocation of funds that otherwise could be made to an institution in order to make payments for leases within the lease financing program; increases amount of expenditures that may be made from petty cash funds from \$300 to \$500; broadens exemption from certain expenditure prohibitions. (62 § 41.14, 70 §§ 3206.5, 3210, 3903, 74 § 840-2.7)

5/21/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (33-5)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (51-45)

5/25/99 Emergency Passed - House (68-27)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 152** (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS /PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. This is a shell bill that sets budgetary limitations for the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

2/9/99 Amended and Passed - Senate (48-0)

4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (96-3)

4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 161** (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS/PMTC/OCAST/TEACHER PREP/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. This is a general appropriations bill. Section 13 appropriates \$677,259,679 to the State Regents from the General Revenue Fund; Section 14 appropriates \$9,475,532 to the State Regents from the Special Cash Fund; Section 15 appropriates \$37,853,842 to the State Regents from the General Revenue Fund; Section 16 appropriates \$4,369,968 to the State Regents from the General Revenue Fund; Section 17 appropriates \$4,844,262 to the State Regents from the General Revenue Fund; Section 18 appropriates \$12 million to the State Regents from the General Revenue Fund; Section 21 appropriates \$4,908,000 to the Physician Manpower Training Commission; Section 22 appropriates \$400,000 to the Physician Manpower Training Commission; Section 24 appropriates \$4,516,000 to the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics; Section 25 appropriates \$11,607,550 to the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), Section 26 appropriates \$1,554,000 to the Teacher Preparation Commission; Section 28 appropriates \$135,828,803 to the Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement System; Section 87 appropriates \$26,576,556 to the University Hospitals Authority. *Section 28 was repealed in HB 1574. See also HB 1510 and HB 1523 for redesignation of funds.*

**4/8/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 164** (Haney/Settle) - **ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY**. Transfers the governance of Rogers State University from the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges to the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma.

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (40-3)

5/21/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (74-27)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

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

2/22/99 Passed - Senate (32-13)

4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed House (96-3)

4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 178** (Haney/Settle) - **DEFERRED SAVINGS**. Clarifies language relating to the State Employees Deferred Savings Incentive Plan. The conference committee substitute authorizes the use of funds in the Oklahoma State Employees Deferred Savings Incentive Plan fund, when specifically authorized by the Legislature, for administration of the Deferred Savings Incentive Plan and the Oklahoma State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan; authorizes the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to expend up to \$300,000 for administration of the two plans. (74 § 1707)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (99-0)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 180** (Haney/Settle) - **PROGRAM BUDGETING**. Corrects language relating to program budgeting. (62 § 41.44)

2/22/99 Passed - Senate (32-13)

4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed House (96-2)

4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 182** (Haney/Settle) - **CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT**. Clarifies language relating to the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority. (73 § 301)

2/22/99 Passed - Senate (35-0)  
4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed House (96-3)  
4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

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

2/22/99 Passed - Senate (33-13)  
4/7/99 Bill Passed House (96-3)  
4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 196** (Williams/Braddock) - **OKLAHOMA TUITION AID GRANT (OTAG)/TUITION TRUST/COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN**. Removes language requiring that, in order to receive a tuition aid grant, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of six semester hours; requires the State Regents to determine by rules the annual maximum award amount based on an annual assessment of funds availability; requires that the percentage of aid be based on a need analysis system consistent with federal student financial aid regulations; requires the Regents to set an annual award payment schedule based on a maximum grant of 75 percent of tuition and fees, with grants based on lower percentages of tuition and fees being awarded to students who demonstrate lower financial need; provides that no student who receives an award for the 1999-2000 academic year shall be denied additional awards because of inability to meet the financial standards established in this act as long as other eligibility criteria continue to be met and the student's award status is renewed annually; creates the Oklahoma Tuition Trust Act Task Force until Feb. 1, 2000, to review prepaid tuition programs, how implementation of the Tuition Trust Act can be coordinated with the Oklahoma College Savings Plan Act and make recommendations on implementation of the Tuition Trust Act; includes the Chancellor or designee on Task Force. The conference committee substitute adds language creating an Oklahoma Task Force on Qualified State Tuition Plans until Feb. 1, 2000, to study and prepare recommendations concerning the viability of the Oklahoma Tuition Trust Act and its potential for enhancing or detracting from implementation of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan. (70 §§ 626.4, 626.7)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)  
5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (98-1)  
5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 224** (Williams/Braddock) - **STUDENT LOANS**. Requires licensing agencies to provide to the State Regents information indexed by social security number, when requested for use in the default prevention efforts or collection of defaulted student loans guaranteed by the Regents; provides for confidentiality of such information; requires the Oklahoma Bar Association, if it receives notice that a licensed attorney is in default, to begin proceedings by which the attorney may be suspended pursuant to Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings. (70 §§ 623, 623.1)

**4/7/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 272** (Herbert/Adair) - **RETIREMENT/LIFE INSURANCE**. Allows a person receiving a vested benefit under the provisions of the State of Oklahoma retirement systems and who is participating in a health insurance plan, the dental insurance plan, or the life insurance plan offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board or the spouse of such person to purchase life insurance benefits not to exceed \$50,000. (74 § 1316.1)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)  
5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-0)

**5/25/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 296** (Morgan/Stanley) - **DENTISTRY**. Adds definition of “accredited dental college” and “accredited dental hygiene program” to the State Dental Act; amends language applying to acts regarded as practicing dentistry within the meaning of the Act; amends language relating to securing a license or certificate of ability to practice dentistry or dental hygiene; amends language relating to faculty permits. (59 §§ 328.3, 328.19, 328.20, 328.21, 328.27, 328.36, 328.39, 328.39a, 328.41)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-0)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (95-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 323** (Muegge/Lindley) - **SICK LEAVE**. Allows state employees to donate to another employee any amount of unused sick leave at the time of termination of employment. (74 § 840-2.23)

**4/5/99 Vetoed by Governor**

4/21/99 Veto override fails - Senate (31-14)

**SB 354** (Monson/Askins) - **HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY**. Removes authority for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to purchase health care benefits and develop health care plans for state and education employees. (63 §§ 5006, 5011; 74 § 1364)

**4/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 361** (Monson/Toure) - **RETIREMENT**. Requires school districts, colleges and universities and other agencies whose employees are members of the Teachers’ Retirement System to charge all of their externally sponsored agreements such as grants, contracts and cooperative agreements an amount for contributions to the System; provides for calculation of amount. (70 § 17-108)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (40-0)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (98-1)

5/24/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 366** (Fisher/Deutschendorf) - **TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD**. Creates an Oklahoma Technology Advisory Board comprising the members of the State Regents, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary for Science and Technology Development; requires the Board to promote development of partnerships between private industries that use advanced technology and higher education and to encourage creation of infrastructure systems that may be used to attract industries that use advanced technology to the state. (70 § 9001)

2/22/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (47-0)

3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (97-1)

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 372** (Henry/Blackburn) - **COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN**. Sets term limits of membership of the Board of Trustees of the College Savings Plan; exempts Board from the Central Purchasing Act for purposes of selecting depository institutions and account managers; requires the Board to develop a competitive process by which the institutions and managers will be selected; exempts the Board from Article I of the Administrative Procedures Act. (70 §§ 3970.4, 3970.5; 75 § 250.4)

**5/3/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 373** (Monson/Askins) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Requires that the management and administration of the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB) be put out for annual bid; requires that health benefit plan contracts for state employees provide for a risk adjustment

factor for adverse selection that may occur based on generally accepted actuarial principles; requires that during any legislative session in which state and education employee benefits are modified, the enrollment period for participating members shall be extended to allow members to enroll in modified benefits; provides for extension of calendar-year deductible for state health and dental insurance plan; provides that an eligible education employee shall not be required to cover a spouse in order to cover children; allows certain employees who elect not to continue coverage to elect again to be covered if his or her spouse loses coverage for any reason; authorizes the State Employee Benefits Council to negotiate for best and final offer through competitive negotiation and to keep confidential certain proposal-related documents; prohibits OSEEGIB from further increasing plan rates until the issuance of the Payment Rate Review Task Force report. The conference committee substitute allows health maintenance organizations (HMOs) under contract with the state to offer coverage through a point-of-service plan, subject to guidelines established by the Board. (74 §§ 1306, 1309, 1316.2, 1316.3, 1363, 1371)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (41-0)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (98-0)

5/24/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 376** (Leftwich/Paulk) - **PRIVATIZATION OF STATE FUNCTIONS.** Creates the “Oklahoma Privatization of State Functions Act”; declares purpose of act to set guidelines for privatization of state services to ensure that, if approved, privatization is cost effective and in the best interest of state citizens; requires agencies to allow employees to submit proposals for improving operations, efficiency or organization of the entity; prohibits present and former state officers or employees with discretionary or decision-making authority in awarding privatization contracts from becoming an officer or employee of a business organization that is a party to such a contract with the subject state agency for a period of one year. (74 §§ 595/595.4)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-8)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (96-3)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 380** (Stipe/Gray) - **LICENSED BEHAVIORAL PRACTITIONERS.** Creates the “Licensed Behavioral Practitioner Act”; provides exemption of certain professionals, including employees of accredited higher education institutions, from act; requires certain course work for license. (59 §§ 1930/1948)

**4/28/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 409** (Mickle/Dunegan) - **BONDS/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.** Modifies criteria for issuance of debt by public trust authorities for the benefit of a nonprofit corporation; modifies criteria for allocations under the state ceiling for private activity bond allocations; provides exemption from legislative approval requirements for certain bonds; designates Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc. a technology transfer center and an instrumentality of the state. (18 § 868; 62 §§ 695.23, 695.24; 70 §§ 4002.1; 6002)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (36-0)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (81-18)

**5/26/99 Vetoed by Governor**

**SB 411** (Stipe/Frame) - **HEALTH INSURANCE.** 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; defines the term “preferred provider organization (PPO)” for purposes of the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act; requires a health insurer, excluding the state, the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board, the Health Care Authority and federal Medicare carriers, to which a health care provider submits a clean claim to pay the claim within 30 calendar days of receipt; provides that failure for any reason on the part of a health insurer to pay a

clean claim within the time frame shall result in payment of a penalty equal to the Bank of Oklahoma Prime plus two percentage points per month or fraction of a month until the claim is paid. (36 §§ 1219, 1219.1, 6054, 6055, 6532)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)

5/17/99 Senate Reconsiders Vote Whereby Bill Passed

5/18/99 Senate Rejects Conference Committee Report, Requests Further Conference

5/20/99 Second CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-5)

5/25/99 Second CCR Laid Over - House

**SB 439** (Monson/Roberts) - **HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT RATES.** Changes the date for submission of an annual report by the Payment Rate Review Task Force from Sept. 1 to Jan. 1; requires the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to schedule a hearing 30 days prior to adopting any major change of reimbursement rates or methodology; requires the Board to notify health care providers at least 15 days prior to the hearing; requires the Board to provide an open forum for health care providers to comment on proposed changes; requires the Board to make available, upon request, copies of relevant fee schedules to participating health care providers. (74 §§ 1306.3, 1325, 1326)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (100-0)

**5/25/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 441** (Robinson/Weaver) - **LIFE INSURANCE.** Requires the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to increase the basic term life insurance from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

3/1/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (45-0)

4/5/99 Bill Passed - House (101-0)

4/19/99 Bill Passed - Senate (41-3)

4/20/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

4/21/99 Senate and House Rescind Signing and Fourth Reading

4/27/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

**SB 473** (Shurden/Leist) - **LOTTERIES.** Exempts from the prohibition against lotteries fundraising activities of qualified church, school-related, charitable or fraternal organizations which include issuing numbered tickets in conjunction with voluntary contributions to the organization, with stubs to be drawn by lot entitling the ticket holder to a prize; exempts from the definition of "bet" and "consideration" purses or prizes issued in hunting, fishing or shooting competitions.

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (41-3)

5/26/99 CCR Failed - House (35-63)

**SB 480** (Hobson/Toure) - **TECHNOLOGY/CONFIDENTIALITY.** Allows a public body to keep as confidential any information relating to state-owned or -controlled technology or the development, transfer or commercialization of the technology, including the specific terms and conditions of any license or other commercialization agreement which, if disclosed, could adversely affect or give other persons or entities an advantage over public bodies in negotiating terms and conditions for the development, transfer or commercialization of the technology; provides reporting requirements for research activities at State System institutions; makes such reports subject to the Open Records Act. The conference committee substitute allows a public body to keep as confidential the specific terms and conditions of a license or other commercialization agreement relating to state-owned or -controlled technology or the development, transfer or commercialization of the technology, and any other information relating to such technology which, if disclosed, will adversely affect or give other persons or entities an advantage over public bodies in negotiating terms and conditions for the development, transfer or commercialization of the technology;

specifies specific reporting requirements for research activities at State System institutions; makes such reports subject to full disclosure pursuant to the Open Records Act. (51 § 24A.19)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (98-6)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 504** (Henry/Weaver) - **RETIREMENT**. Authorizes a retired member of the Teachers' Retirement System who has been retired for 24 or more months and who is employed to teach in a public school to receive annualized earnings from the school not to exceed \$25,000. The conference committee substitute changes 24 months to 36 months. (70 § 17-116.10)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (34-5)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (93-6)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**SB 505** (Williams/Braddock) - **TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT**. Authorizes state officers and employees to receive travel reimbursement through direct deposit if the officer or employee is receiving his or her payroll claims pursuant to the State Employees' Direct Deposit Act. (74 § 500.37)

**4/28/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 508** (Dickerson/Askins) - **PURCHASING**. Increases from \$2,500 to \$10,000 the contract threshold for requirement that state agency heads, whether or not the agency is subject to Central Purchasing, report annually to the State Purchasing Director. (74 § 85.43)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (41-1)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (87-10)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 517** (Maddox/Deutschendorf) - **CAMPUS SAFETY**. Authorizes the chief administrative officer or anyone designated by the chief administrative officer or the governing board of an institution of learning to maintain order at the institution to remove a person who is not a student, officer or employee thereof, who loiters on or about the institution without having any reasonable purpose and substantially interferes with the regular activities and purposes of the institution, poses a threat to the peace or safety of any person present at the institution, causes or attempts to cause damage or waste to any property, or substantially interferes with the proper maintenance or security of the buildings or grounds; requires establishment of a grievance or appeals procedure. (21 § 1376)

3/3/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (31-11)

3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (99-2)

3/31/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

4/6/99 Bill Recalled from Governor's Desk

4/15/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-0)

5/12/99 CCR - Submitted, CCR Failed - Senate

5/25/99 Second CCR Submitted, Conferees Disagree

**SB 552** (Fisher/Erwin) - **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**. Expresses legislative intent to facilitate implementation of State Questions 680 and 681 (1998) and to encourage higher education research aimed at expanding the technology-related educational and economic development opportunities throughout Oklahoma.

2/23/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (41-0)

4/6/99 Bill Passed - House (100-0)

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 589** (Smith/Askins) - **TRADEMARK ANTI-COUNTERFEITING.** Enacts the “Trademark Anti-Counterfeiting Act”; criminalizes the reproduction or copy of trademarks or intellectual property; requires a law enforcement officer, after forfeiture has been ordered, to destroy all seized items that bear a counterfeit mark. (21 §§ 1990/1990.2, 1738)

**4/5/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 602** (Hobson/Roberts) - **RETIREMENT.** Modifies maximum compensation levels to be used for calculating benefits for members of the Teachers Retirement System. (70 §§ 17-101, 17-116.2B)

**4/19/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 610** (Morgan/Roberts) - **RETIREMENT.** Extends to June 30, 2000, a benefit increase for members of the Teachers' Retirement System. (70 § 17-116.13)

2/23/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)

4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (97-0)

5/27/99 CCR Submitted to Senate

**SB 647** (Mickle/Askins) - **STATE AGENCY ACCOUNTS.** Authorizes the State Treasurer to waive the counter-signature requirement for vouchers against agency clearing accounts and special accounts if an agency certifies that controls are in place and will be followed to prevent the unauthorized issuance of its vouchers and if the vouchers are generated and signed by automated processes; authorizes a state agency, if the State Treasurer has an agreement with a financial institution to provide services, to pay the institution directly for services performed for the agency under the same terms, if the services are services not previously provided to the agency through the State Treasurer; allows the State Treasurer to permit treasurers of local governmental entities to place public funds under their control into investments used by the State Treasurer for state funds, if the local treasurer has appropriate investment authority; repeals sections relating to designation of fiscal agencies. (62 §§ 7.5a, 71)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (41-0)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (97-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 669** (Smith/Toure) - **PUNITIVE DAMAGES.** Prohibits the state or political subdivisions from paying punitive or exemplary damages rendered against an employee; provides that the state or political subdivisions may indemnify employees for actual damages, fees and costs in certain cases; repeals provisions related to application of certain provisions. (51 § 162)

**4/22/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 680** (Henry/Settle) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.** Removes the requirement that workers' compensation coverage for state employees be through the State Insurance Fund; requires that such insurance be obtained from the lowest and best bidder pursuant to the Central Purchasing Act; provides that a claimant whose injury does not prevent returning to employment with the same employer at the same or greater rate of pay will be ineligible for a permanent disability award; modifies penalty for failure to secure workers' compensation coverage. (85 §§ 1.2, 2b, 3, 22, 63.1)

3/10/99 Floor Substitute Adopted and Passed - Senate (47-0)

3/31/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-0)

4/29/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 685** (Cain/Blackburn) - **HEALTH INSURANCE.** Requires certain health insurance policies to include coverage for audiological services and hearing aids for children up to the age of 13; provides an

exemption for policies that provide coverage for specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and groups with 50 or fewer employees. (36 § 6060.7)

**4/28/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 697** (Wilcoxson/Coleman) - **TESTING**. Requires the State Board of Education to evaluate academic competencies to ensure they reflect high standards, are specific, well-defined, measurable, challenging and will prepare elementary students for next-grade-level course work and secondary students for post-secondary studies at higher education institutions or vo-tech schools without the need for remediation in core curriculum areas; requires the Board, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, to contract to administer a series of grade-level appropriate, nationally normed, norm-referenced tests designed to determine the level of achievement attained by Oklahoma public school students; specifies norm-referenced tests to be administered; requires that the twelfth-grade criterion-referenced tests be replaced with end-of-instruction tests; specifies requirements for such tests; requires the Board to adopt a series of three student-performance-levels for end-of-instruction tests, with performance levels similar to those used for achievement levels on the National Assessment of Educational Progress; specifies requirements for reporting of tests results; encourages school districts to use performance on state end-of-instruction tests as a portion of students' grades and to post performance on transcripts; provides for alternative assessments for students with disabilities; requires notification of students' parents of the school's performance level in the testing program. (70 §§ 1210.508, 1210.541)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (26-22)

3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (94-7)

5/10/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 713** (Henry/Boyd) - **TECHNOLOGY INCENTIVE FUND**. Provides that each school district that votes to levy 5 mills for technology shall be eligible for an award from the Technology Incentive Fund; provides for calculation of award; creates fund; effective upon voter approval of SJR 8. (*SJR 8 failed in committee.*) (70 §§ 15-106.2, 15-106.3)

3/3/99 Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)

4/15/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (81-18)

5/27/99 CCR Submitted to Senate

**SB 715** (Crutchfield/McCarter) - **TEACHER PREPARATION**. Requires teacher preparation pre-service programs to include a study of substance-abuse symptoms identification and prevention, classroom management skills and classroom safety and discipline techniques. (70 § 6-185)

5/12/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (46-0)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (98-0)

**5/24/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 720** (Taylor/Benson) - **SPACE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**. "Oklahoma Space Industry Development Act"; creates an Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority to plan spaceport systems and projects in the state, promote development and improvement of space exploration and spaceport facilities, to stimulate development of space commerce and education, including the commercialization of the space industry and development of space-related industries, to promote research and development related to space and space-related industry and to promote tourism in connection with the foregoing; permits the authority to cooperate with municipalities, counties, regional authorities, state agencies and organizations, appropriate federal agencies and organizations and other interested persons and groups; creates a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate; requires that all but one board member be a state resident; requires that members have experience in the aerospace or commercial space industry or finance, or other significant relevant experience; permits the

authority to acquire real property for the purpose of establishing, constructing, maintaining or operating a spaceport and spaceport facilities; creates a Spaceport Territory Advisory Council consisting of one person appointed by the board of county commissioners of each county located within the area defined as a spaceport territory and one person appointed by the municipal governing body of any incorporated city or town located partially or wholly within the area; specifies geographic area within which the spaceport territory is to be established; provides procedures for landowners to exclude their land from spaceport territory; provides for bonding authority; provides for motor fuel and sales tax exemptions for the Space Industry Development Authority and spaceport users. (74 §§ 5201/5237; 68 §§ 500.10, 500.13, 1356, 3202)

**5/17/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 721** (Cain/Askins) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/DEPENDANT COVERAGE/INCOME ASSIGNMENT.** Pertains to court-ordered child support; provides requirements for employers of parents who are required by court order to provide for their children health coverage which is available through the employer; provides for income assignment.

2/23/99 Bill Passed - Senate (41-2)

4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (101-0)

5/10/99 In Conference Committee

5/12/99 House Amendments Rejected

**SB 747** (Williams/Boyd) - **ACADEMY SCHOOLS.** "Academy Schools Act"; defines "academy school" as a public school established by contract with a board of education of a public school district, a governing board of an institution of higher education, a municipality or the State Board of Education to provide learning that will improve student achievement; specifies contents of applications for academy schools; provides for establishment of academy schools under contract; requires a local board of education or the state board to either accept or reject sponsorship of an academy school within 90 days of receipt of an application; gives an applicant 30 days to submit a revised application after notification of rejection and the school board 30 days to accept or reject the revised application; provides for appeal to the State Board of Education of applications rejected by local boards; specifies requirements for contracts for academy schools; requires that academy schools be nonsectarian in their programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations; prohibits a sponsor from authorizing an academy school or program that is affiliated with a private sectarian school or religious institution; requires that academy schools provide a comprehensive program of instruction for at least a kindergarten program or any grade between grades one and 12; authorizes instruction to persons younger than age five and older than age 18; requires academy schools to design programs to at least meet the core curriculum adopted by the state board and to participate in the testing as required by the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act; provides for auditing requirements; prohibits an academy school from being used as a method of providing education or generating revenue for students who are being home schooled; prohibits an academy school from charging tuition; requires that an academy school be considered a school district for purposes of tort liability under the Governmental Tort Claims Act; limits terms for academy school contracts to five years from the first day of operation; provides for renewal; allows an academy school, in the event a renewal is denied, to apply to another sponsor to transfer the operation of the school; provides for termination of contracts; specifies requirements for admission of students; requires that academy schools be funded at the same level as other comparable schools in the school district in which the charter is granted, taking into account the school's grade level, size and demographics; creates an "Academy Schools Stimulus Fund" within the State Treasury, administered by the Department of Education to provide financial support to academy school applicants and academy schools for start-up costs and costs associated with renovating or remodeling existing buildings and structures for use by an academy school. Several amendments were made including allowing the voters of a school district to vote on acceptance

or rejection of an application for a charter school that has been rejected by a board of education and allowing an academy school established to address the special needs of deaf or hard-of-hearing students to enroll any student who meets the school's admission requirements, regardless of the student's district of residence. (70 §§ 3-130/3-141)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (25-19)

4/14/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (68-31)

4/29/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 750 (Rozell/Paulk) - GRANT FUND REPORTS.** Requires all governmental entities to report grant funds received, administered, used or under the direct or indirect control of such entity or its employees; requires that a copy of the report be filed with the State Auditor and Inspector and the Director of the Office of State Finance within four months after the end of the fiscal year. (74 § 212A)

5/11/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (33-0)

5/13/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-0)

**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 758 (Horner/Ross) - SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM.** States legislative intent that Oklahoma history, including African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and certain other ethnic groups in Oklahoma be included in the social studies core curriculum; excludes Satanists or homosexual churches from being included in the curriculum; requires the State Board of Education to prescribe courses of instruction for all students, kindergarten through grade 12, in social studies classes, including history, geography, civics and sociology, that reflect the cultures of all of America's diverse peoples. The conference committee substitute requires that the State Board of Education adopt a social studies core curriculum with courses of instruction for all students enrolled in the public schools that reflects the racial, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of the U.S.; directs that the U.S. history and Oklahoma history components required in the social studies curriculum for all students include African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanic Americans; states legislative intent that a portion of state funds appropriated for professional development in local school districts be used for workshops, seminars, guest lecturers and other methods that further the purposes of the act. (70 § 11-103.6)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (32-10)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (66-31)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 763 (Williams/Blackburn) - PUBLIC SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS.** States legislative intent that public school paraprofessionals be afforded career opportunities and economic incentives through a career development program; requires the State Board of Education to adopt a program for the career development of public school paraprofessionals; requires that the purpose of the program be to provide public school paraprofessionals a system of career development based on education and training advancement to encourage excellence among such paraprofessionals; makes participation by such persons voluntary. (70 § 6-127A)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (42-3)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (85-11)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**SB 784 (Williams/Boyd) - EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS.** Requires that entities responsible for setting standards and determining progress within the state's educational system shall ensure compliance with certain criteria relating to content and student achievement standards, mandatory statewide testing, professional development, accountability reporting and rewards, sanctions and targeted assistance; states legislative intent that an early intervention program for schools identified as low-performing be estab-

lished, and that a program be established providing rewards for districts that make significant average test score increases, whose scores the previous year were in the lowest quartile. (70 §§ 1210.804, 1210.541A, 1210.541B)

3/1/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (45-0)  
4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (96-0)  
4/29/99 In Conference Committee

**SB 787** (Morgan/Wells) - **TUITION INCENTIVE.** "Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Act"; creates the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Program to enhance economic growth in the state through increasing the number of college graduates; provides that eligible students may receive payment from the Oklahoma Tuition Incentive Trust Fund for up to four years of undergraduate general enrollment fees at an institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution in Oklahoma approved or accredited by the State Regents or appropriate postsecondary agency or tuition for enrollment in postsecondary programs of the area vocational-technical districts; requires that students be Oklahoma residents who have graduated from a State-accredited high school or the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, or have satisfied higher education admission standards and have secured admission to a institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution in Oklahoma approved or accredited by the State Regents or appropriate postsecondary agency, private university, or a post-secondary vo-tech program or course offered pursuant to a cooperative agreement; provides for maintenance of eligibility; prohibits the scholarship amount from exceeding tuition cost at a state college; creates a Tuition Incentive Trust Fund; creates a Task Force to study prepaid tuition. (70 §§ 2701/2705, 3953.2)

3/1/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)  
3/31/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (98-1)  
5/10/99 In Conference Committee

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**SJR 2** (Herbert/Glover) - **SCHOOL LAND FUNDS.** Proposed constitutional amendment removing restrictions on use of the permanent school fund for common schools; requires that all earnings, interest, dividends and capital gains from investment of the fund shall be credited to the principal of the fund; provides that the amount of annual distribution shall be between 4.75 percent and 5.5 percent of the average of the year-end market value of the funds for the immediately preceding three fiscal years.

**4/5/99 To Secretary of State**

**SJR 21** (Pruitt/Hefner) - **WILLIAM B. BRIGHT/NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY.** Designates State Highway 51 between Broken Arrow and Coweta as the Dr. William R. Bright Bypass. Dr. Bright, founder of the Campus Crusade for Christ International, is a graduate of Northeastern State University.

**3/24/99 Signed by Governor**

**SJR 25** (Capps/Bonny) - **SPACE INDUSTRY/TECHNOLOGY OWNERSHIP.** Proposed constitutional amendment authorizing the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority to have an ownership interest in space technology, whether or not the technology is protected pursuant to federal or state law governing intellectual property, and to have an ownership interest in a business enterprise or private business entity that is involved with space technology, if the technology is a result of research or development involving the authorized use of facilities, equipment, or services of the Authority.

2/16/99 Passed - Senate (46-0)  
4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-1)  
5/10/99 In Conference Committee

5/13/99 House Amendments - Rejected

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

**SCR 3** (Leftwich/Nations) - **CONSUMER CREDIT PROGRAM.** Requests that Oklahoma public higher education institutions include a consumer credit education program as part of new student orientation.

3/22/99 Adopted by Senate

3/31/99 House Committee - Committee Substitute Do Pass

**SCR 9** (Brown/Calvey) - **OU MEMORIAL UNION.** Praises the University of Oklahoma Memorial Union for their current renovations; opposes adding a pub to the Union or otherwise promoting the use of alcoholic beverages by students within the borders of the University community.

3/4/99 Second reading - Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee

**SCR 11** (Snyder/Askins) - **UCO STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE.** Supports the University of Central Oklahoma Students in Free Enterprise Team in conjunction with Economic Security 2000's mission and goals.

4/26/99 Adopted - Senate

5/27/99 Adopted - House

**5/27/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 17** (Taylor/Benson) - **BOB ALLEN/OETA/OU.** Praises Bob Allen for the enthusiastic manner in which the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) has been developed. When Bob Allen became Executive Director of OETA in 1972, the system was operating in a basement of a building at the University of Oklahoma.

**4/13/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 18** (Maddox/Deutschendorf) - **CAMPUS SAFETY.** Recalls SB 517 from the Governor's desk.

**4/6/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 19** (Snyder/Vaughn) - **UCO/REVENUE BONDS.** Authorizes the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, on behalf of the University of Central Oklahoma, to apply to the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority for issuance of revenue bonds in the amount of \$4,910,000 to refund certain revenue bonds.

4/12/99 Adopted by Senate

5/26/99 House Committee - Do Pass

**SCR 20** (Snyder/Vaughn) - **UCO/REVENUE BONDS.** Authorizes the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, on behalf of the University of Central Oklahoma, to issue \$32 million in revenue bonds to refund Series 1993 Library Bonds and Series 1993 University Center and Parking Revenue Bonds.

4/12/99 Adopted by Senate

5/26/99 House Committee - Do Pass

**SCR 21** (Snyder/Vaughn) - **UCO/REVENUE BONDS.** Authorizes the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, on behalf of the University of Central Oklahoma, to issue \$9.5 million in revenue bonds for constructing a Wellness Center and funding of any required reserves and payments of costs associated with the issuance of said bonds.

4/13/99 Adopted by Senate, to House

5/26/99 House Committee - Do Pass

**SCR 22** (Leftwich) - **OCCC/REVENUE BONDS**. Authorizes the Board of Regents of Oklahoma City Community College, on behalf of OCCC, to issue \$8 million in revenue bonds for constructing, remodeling, and equipping student-related facilities, including remodeling the interior of the main building and completing the third and fourth floors of the library.

4/19/99 Adopted by Senate, to House

5/26/99 House Committee - Do Pass

**SCR 24** (Morgan/Ingmire) - **ROY PETERS DAY**. Proclaims April 20, 1999, as "Roy Peters Day"; thanks Roy Peters Jr., the director of the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, for his years of public service to vocational education; Peters received his bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and his master's degree and doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

**4/21/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 25** (Hobson/Begley) - **HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT**. Extends until May 21, 1999, the enrollment period for education employees participating in a plan offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board.

**4/26/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 33** (Morgan/Wells) - **REVENUE BONDS/OSU**. Authorizes the A&M Board of Regents on behalf of Oklahoma State University to issue \$15 million in revenue bonds for constructing a new addition to and making repairs and renovations to the Colvin Recreation Center facilities in Stillwater; authorizes the Regents to issue \$3 million in revenue bonds for refunding the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 1989, and the Colvin Center Swimming Pools Restoration Project Revenue Bonds, Series 1993.

5/24/99 Direct to Calendar

**SCR 34** (Hobson/Nations) - **REVENUE BONDS/OU**. Authorizes the OU Board of Regents to issue \$10 million in revenue bonds, loan agreements and notes for constructing, renovating, remodeling, expanding, and equipping several capital projects including student usage facilities, laboratory facilities, auditorium facilities, additions to other revenue-producing facilities and other renovations including furnishings, equipment and related landscaping and exterior amenities on the University's various campuses.

5/9/99 Adopted - Senate

5/26/99 House Committee - Do Pass

**SCR 37** (Taylor/Benson) - **SEN. GENE STIPE**. Honors Sen. Gene Stipe for his many years of dedicated public service to his legislative district, state and nation; congratulates Sen. Stipe on the 50th anniversary of receiving his LL.B. from the University of Oklahoma and admission to the Oklahoma Bar.

**5/6/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 38** (Leftwich/Paulk) - **PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**. Requests that the Governor adopt an executive order providing paid administrative leave for certain employees affected by the May 3 tornadoes.

**5/12/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 39** (Mickle/Dunegan) - **DURANT/SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**. Designates Durant as the "Magnolia Capital of Oklahoma"; memorializes the Governor to do the same.

Professor E.B. Robbins brought with him seedlings of magnolia trees when he joined the faculty of Southeastern Normal School, now Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The University became known as “The Campus of a Thousand Magnolias.”

**5/18/99 To Secretary of State**

**SCR 58** (Monson/Wells) - **LANGSTON UNIVERSITY**. Approves the statewide plan for Langston University.

5/27/99 Adopted - Senate

## **SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

**SR 2** (Ford) - **LYNN PEACHER/NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**. Congratulates Oklahoma’s 1998-99 Teacher of the Year Lynn Peacher. Ms. Peacher earned her Bachelor’s degree at Oklahoma State University and has continued her education at Northeastern State University.

**2/10/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 4** (Kerr) - **SEN. EDWIN BERRONG/SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY/OU**. Praises the life and career of public service of the late State Senator Edwin Berrong. Sen. Berrong attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

**2/15/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 17** (Robinson) - **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MONTH**. Proclaims April 1999 as “Oklahoma Science and Technology Month”.

**4/15/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 20** (Monson) - **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DAY**. Designates April 27, 1999, as Oklahoma Occupational Therapy Day. Distribution list for copies of the resolution includes the OU Health Sciences Center.

**4/28/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 21** (Taylor) - **DEFERRED COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT**. Memorializes the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to support legislation that enhances Section 457 deferred compensation plans and increases portability between retirement plans.

**4/14/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 28** (Leftwich) - **LIONS CLUBS MOBILE SCREENING UNIT**. Praises the concept and operation of the Lions’ Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) and everyone who has contributed to its success. Screening includes tests for visual acuity, hearing, glaucoma, blood sugar, and blood pressure. If a visitor to the Lions’ MSU fails one of the five screenings, he or she is contacted by a research worker from Oklahoma State University to ascertain whether the visitor has sought medical advice.

5/24/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/24/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 29** (Williamson) - **L. BEAUCHAMP ‘BEAU’ SELMAN**. Praises the life and career of the late State Senator L. Beauchamp Selman and offers condolences to his family and friends. Senator Selman attended Cameron State University and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. While in the state Senate he was principal sponsor of legislation creating Tulsa Junior College. He served on the OU Board of Visitors and was a life member of the OU Alumni Association.

**5/10/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 32 (Henry) - OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS.** Praises the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics. State Regents scholarships have been offered to 217 OSSM seniors, and approximately 60 percent of the graduating seniors attend Oklahoma colleges and universities.

**5/13/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 33 (Fisher) - GEORGE WASHINGTON COMMEMORATION.** Calls upon the State of Oklahoma to remember the life of George Washington and his contributions to the Nation; requests the Governor to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the state to commemorate the death of George Washington with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to cause and encourage patriotic and civic associations, veterans and labor organizations, schools, universities and communities of study and worship, together with citizens everywhere, to develop programs and research projects that concentrate upon the life and character of Washington as it relates to the future of the nation and the development and welfare of the lives of free people everywhere.

5/24/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/24/99 To Secretary of State**

**SR 34 (Fisher) - CHARLES B. DODSON.** Honors Dr. Charles B. Dodson upon his retirement as Superintendent of Sapulpa Public Schools; Dr. Dodson received an Associate degree from Eastern A&M, and BS, MS and EdD degrees from Oklahoma State University.

5/18/99 Introduced - Senate

**SR 36 (Horner) - JAY MCSHANN.** Honors Jay McShann for his selection to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa. McShann, who has received an award from the National Association of Jazz Education, enjoys conducting workshops at colleges, universities and high schools and has done so in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

5/21/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/21/99 To Secretary of State**

## **HOUSE BILLS**

**HB 1001X (Settle/Haney) - AGENCY BUDGET REDUCTION.** Reduces state agency budgets for the remainder of FY'99 by an average of 1.2 percent or a total of about \$25 million.

**2/9/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1003X (Rice/Easley) - OIL PRODUCTION TAX/EDUCATION CAPITAL FUNDS.** Relates to lowering the gross production tax rate on oil production; provides that when the tax is at 7 percent, the tuition fund, common education fund and higher education capital fund, would be allocated 25.72 percent each; at a 4-percent tax, tuition, education technology and higher education capital would get 22.5 percent each; at 1 percent, revenues would be evenly split to county government and local schools; revenues going into the funds would be capped at \$100 million; excess amounts would be deposited in the General Revenue Fund; creates a Common Education Technology Fund, a Higher Education Capital Fund, and an Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Fund. (62 § 41.29c/41.29e)

**2/5/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1002 (Askins/Brown) - RETIREMENT/TOBACCO SETTLEMENT.** Creates a Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund; requires that a percentage of trust fund earnings be transferred to the

Oklahoma Teachers' Retirement (OTRS) Fund until such transfers amount to a certain amount, with the remainder to be transferred to the Tobacco Settlement Special Cash Fund. (37 §§ 600.13, 600.14)

2/25/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (99-2)  
3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (38-0)  
5/26/99 In Conference Committee

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

**5/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1048** (Adair/Littlefield) - **THISTLE ERADICATION/OSU**. Adds counties to those in which thistles may be eradicated; requires that the results of a survey detailing the degree of infestation of such thistles across the state be reported annually to Oklahoma State University. (2 § 3-220)

5/21/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (101-0)  
5/21/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (39-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1063** (Benson/Haney) - **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**. 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 as defined in the Oklahoma Uniform Management of Institutional Endowment Funds Act for the benefit of one or more tax-exempt charitable, religious or educational organizations. (60 § 175.104)

**4/19/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1069** (Thomas/Mickle) - **MURRAY STATE COLLEGE**. Declares certain state property in Tishomingo to be the property of Murray State College; requires the Department of Central Services to implement a transfer of the property from the State of Oklahoma to Murray State College.

**4/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1118** (Turner/Rozell) - **DONATION OF VEHICLES**. Authorizes the board of regents of a State System institution to enter into written agreements for the donation to the board of motor vehicles by manufacturers for use by the institution in connection with any technical education, training, maintenance or other similar education program or in administering such program operated under the regents' direction; provides for a special license plate to be issued for a \$1 fee for use on such vehicles; authorizes the State Board of Regents, if such a vehicle is donated, to carry liability insurance; specifies limits of liability. (70 §§ 2115/2118)

5/18/99 Third CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (95-0)  
5/18/99 Third CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)

**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1119** (Beutler/Henry) - **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)

3/2/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (101-0)  
3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)  
4/19/99 In Conference Committee  
5/27/99 Returned to Calendar - House

**HB 1130** (Gray/Leftwich) - **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. (75 §§ 250.4, 250.6, 251, 253)

3/2/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (100-0)  
3/29/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (44-0)  
5/27/99 CCR Submitted to House

**HB 1136** (Hilliard/Crutchfield) - **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**. Modifies the criteria for state agency rule impact statement waivers to remove impracticability as grounds; requires that if the agency determines that the rule affects business entities the agency must include in the notice of intended action a request that the affected entities provide the agency, in dollar amounts if possible, the increase in the level of direct costs and indirect costs expected to be incurred by a particular entity due to compliance with the proposed rule; requires that rule impact statements include any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities, probable costs and benefits, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, an explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs, a determination of the effect of the proposed rule on public health, safety and environment and a determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the rule is not implemented; authorizes the Governor, upon agency request, to waive the rule impact statement if the agency is required to implement a statute or federal requirement, under certain circumstances. (75 §§ 253, 303)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (96-5)  
5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (41-2)  
**5/26/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1140** (Easley/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Provides that state employees who are on leave without pay due to a job-related injury or illness shall continue to receive basic plan insurance coverage and dependent insurance benefit allowance; provides that any state officer or employee in the executive branch of state government authorized by the employing agency to volunteer in a disaster relief activity during a presidentially declared natural disaster in Oklahoma after May 1, 1999, for a period of not more than six months after the declaration shall not have to use accrued leave or need to make up any time due to the performance of such volunteer activities; makes state officers and employees directed to participate in their official capacity during such disaster relief activity eligible for reimbursement of meal and lodging costs pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act. (74 §§ 840-2.21, 840-2.24, 500.7)

5/12/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-0)  
5/13/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (44-1)  
**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1152** (Clay Pope/Henry) - **LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES LIABILITY**. Enacts the "Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act;" recognizes that persons who participate in livestock activities may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in such activities; finds that the state and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from livestock activities; states legislative intent to encourage livestock activities in the state. The conference committee substitute adds new sections that provide that, with certain exceptions, a livestock activity sponsor or participant shall not be liable for injuries to any person engaged in such activities which result from the inherent risks of livestock activities and outline exceptions; permits extension of written waiver of liability. (76 §§ 50.1)

3/2/99 Bill Passed - House (101-0)  
3/30/99 Bill Passed - Senate (47-1)

5/26/99 CCR Rejected - House, Requests Further Conference  
5/26/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (95-1)  
5/27/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (41-0)

**HB 1197** (Leist/Price) - **AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT DIVERSIFICATION**. Enacts the "Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Act;" authorizes the State Board of Agriculture to establish and administer an Oklahoma Agricultural Enhancement and Diversification Program to promote and encourage the interests of agriculture through allocation of funds, by grant or loan, to individuals, cooperatives and other agricultural entities to provide assistance to projects dealing with development of new or expanded uses of agriculture products and to increase productivity, provide added value to agricultural products and benefit the agricultural producer; creates a seven-member Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Advisory Board; provides that the President of Oklahoma State University or a designee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board. (2 § 5-3.5)

**5/17/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1201** (Ross/Horner) - **ACADEMIC SCHOLARS**. States that the purpose of the Academic Scholars Program is to retain top-ranked Oklahoma students in Oklahoma colleges, enable Oklahoma higher education institutions to compete aggressively for top Oklahoma scholars, attract high-caliber out-of-state students to Oklahoma, and enhance the academic quality in Oklahoma colleges and universities; abolishes categories of qualification for scholarships; provides for qualification of Presidential Scholars, National Merit Scholars, National Merit Finalists and Institutional Nominees; requires the State Regents to annually report on the number of former Academic Scholars who stay in state as compared to those who leave Oklahoma within five years of leaving the program; repeals section relating to certain low-performance schools. (70 §§ 2402/2404, 1210.542)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (79-20)  
5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (44-1)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1203** (Roberts/Rozell) - **DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**. Modifies language relating to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; specifies penalties for violations of the Act committed within 2,000 feet of various educational institutions, including a public or private college or university, or other higher education institution, a recreation center, a public park or a public housing project; authorizes law enforcement agencies to destroy seized controlled dangerous substances when the amount seized in a single incident exceeds 10 pounds; outlines procedure; provides for written notice to defendant or suspect. (63 §§ 2-401, 2-508)

**5/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1210** (Ross/Horner) - **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; exempts such coverage from policy deductibles; prohibits such coverage from exceeding the actual cost of the prostate-cancer-screening up to a maximum \$65 per screening; provides guidelines for screening. (36 § 6060.7)

**5/3/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1263** (Begley/Hobson) - **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY/ONENET**. Creates the "Technology in the Classroom Act; creates a ten-member Commission on School Technology, which includes 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 prepare a requirements analysis and propose a long-term

state classroom technology implementation plan for improving student performance through the use of communications and other technologies; outlines criteria for plan; requires the Commission to consider the compatibility and usage of OneNet; 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. The conference committee substitute provides that for purposes of school district annexation, if the affected area is part of a district with 30,000 or more ADM, if the boundaries are not contiguous with the boundaries of the rest of the district and if the boundary of the non-contiguous area is at least two miles from the nearest boundary of the rest of the district, only legal voters of the area so affected shall be eligible to vote at such election. (70 §§ 1210.901/ 1210.911)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (100-0)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

**HB 1293** (Settle/Hobson) - **PURCHASING/BIDS/CONTRACTS**. 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 §§ 85.22, 85.23)

3/3/99 Bill Passed - House (82-18)

4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)

4/21/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference

**HB 1296** (Settle/Hobson) - **FEES/NONRESIDENT TUITION**. This is a shell bill relating to higher education general enrollment fees and nonresident tuition. The conference committee substitute changes “general enrollment fee” to “tuition”; increases resident and nonresident tuition at state colleges and universities and post-graduate professional institutions. (70 § 3218.8)

5/26/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (71-27)

5/26/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (44-2)

5/27/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1300** (Settle/Henry) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Provides that a workers' compensation claimant may elect to have hearings in either Oklahoma City or Tulsa; allows employer to object to the location under certain conditions; authorizes an employee determined to be permanently and partially disabled or eligible for permanent partial disability benefits to receive benefits at the same rate as the employee's temporary total disability benefits while actively participating in a retraining or job placement program authorized by the court or the employer; prohibits payment of compensation for permanent partial disability during the pendency of the active participation of the employee in such retraining or job placement program. The conference committee substitute adds a section modifying procedure for selecting where workers' compensation hearings may be held; allowing a claimant to select either Oklahoma City or Tulsa; allows employer to object and request a transfer if the employer will have at least two live witnesses at the hearing and the judge determines that good cause has been shown to transfer the hearing. (85 §§ 3.5, 16)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (56-44)

3/29/99 Bill Passed - Senate (35-10)

5/25/99 CCR Submitted - House

**HB 1318** (Stanley/Henry) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/FREEDOM OF CHOICE.** Modifies the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act; exempts from the Act contracts with a preferred provider organization (PPO) to provide services for certain plans; includes ambulatory surgical centers, home care agencies and preferred provider organizations (PPOs) in the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act; modifies provisions relating to health plan deductibles; authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to issue a cease and desist order to an insurer in violation of the Act; authorizes the Commissioner to levy administrative penalties; provides for judicial review of orders issued by the Commissioner; provides for preferred provider organizations; provides penalties for violation of the Act. (36 §§ 6053/6057.4, 3624)

5/20/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (96-1)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1344** (Leist/Shurden) - **VETERINARY SCHOOLS.** Pertains to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; adds to the definition of “veterinary technician” the requirement that the technician has graduated from a school of animal technology that conforms to the standards required for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association and recognized and approved by the Board; adds “telemedicine” to list of terms included in the practice of veterinary medicine; 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 said school; authorizes the Veterinary Board to refuse to renew a license or certification, seek injunctions or other civil actions, prosecution or administrative penalties; authorizes the Board to place an individual on probation for unprofessional conduct. (59 §§ 698.8a, 698.14b)

**4/19/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1351** (Stanley/Morgan) - **DENTAL FACULTY.** Authorizes the State Board of Dentistry to issue faculty permits without examination to applicants who meet certain requirements; allows faculty permit holders to perform services and procedures in the same manner as a person holding a license to practice dentistry or dental hygiene, but without compensation other than that received in salary from a faculty position; prohibits faculty permit holders from engaging in private practice. (59 § 328.27)

2/23/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (96-0)

3/29/99 Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)

5/19/99 CCR Submitted to House

**HB 1364** (Begley/Hobson) - **EDUCATION LEADERSHIP.** Clarifies language relating to the Education Leadership Oklahoma program. The conference committee report authorizes selection of up to 200 teachers for the 1999-00 Education Leadership Oklahoma program. (70 § 6-204.2)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (99-1)

5/25/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (46-0)

5/26/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1368** (Boyd/Brown) - **GENETIC RESEARCH.** Creates the “Genetic Research Studies Nondisclosure Act”; requires that all records of individual subjects in a genetic research study be confidential, not subject to subpoena or discovery in civil suits and not disclosed to employers or health insurers without the informed consent of the subject; provides that the act shall not apply to an insurer or to an individual or third party dealing with an insurer in the ordinary course of underwriting life, disability income or long-term care insurance; requires informed consent for disclosure of stored tissues that arise from sur-

gery, other diagnostic or therapeutic steps or autopsy for genetic or other research studies; allows such informed consent to be obtained as a part of consent for treatment or admission to a hospital or clinic; permits publication or other use of the results of a genetic research study for research or educational purposes if the study does not identify individual subjects, unless specific informed consent has been obtained. (36 § 3614.4)

**4/13/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1377** (Ervin/Fisher) - **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; states that the total amount of credits allowed to all employers for any fiscal year shall not exceed \$2 million. (68 §§ 2357.35/2357.37)

2/22/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (95-0)

4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (47-0)

4/19/99 In Conference Committee

5/27/99 Conferees Disagree

**HB 1399** (Lindley/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. States legislative intent to ensure that Oklahoma citizens have access to quality health care and adequate information for making informed decisions when choosing managed health care plans; exempts certified workplace medical plans from certain provisions relating to prepaid health plans and health maintenance organizations; prohibits operation of an HMO, prepaid health plan or preferred provider organization without a license issued by the State Department of Health; requires the State Board of Health to promulgate rules pertaining to managed health care plans. (63 §§ 2501 - 2504, 2513, 2506 -2512)

3/2/99 Bill Passed - House (100-1)

4/5/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - Senate (36-12)

4/21/99 In Conference Committee

**HB 1411** (Perry/Robinson) - **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; creates a 38-member Task Force on Electronic Commerce until June 1, 2000, to study the technology of and applications for electronic commerce and to prepare recommendations for legislative and other action needed to assure the availability and use of electronic commerce technology in the state; includes the Chancellor on the task force; provides for members who were serving on the Electronic Signature Task Force, as of Feb. 1, 1999, to automatically be appointed to serve on the Electronic Commerce Task Force; requires the Task Force to issue a final report by Jan. 1, 2000. (74 §§ 5060.50, 5060.51)

5/17/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (98-0)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (39-0)

**5/24/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1413** (Perry/Robinson) - **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; provides that certain provisions do not relieve the state of its obligation to fulfill the terms of a contract; exempts state agency purchases of software, services or embedded chips or systems from competitive bidding requirements if waived by the State Purchasing Director at the request of the appointing authority of the agency if the director determines waiver is necessary for the agency to convert programs to accommodate the change in the millennium. (51 § 155.2, 74 § 85.7)

3/2/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (93-6)

4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (46-0)

4/21/99 In Conference Committee

**HB 1428** (Staggs/Rozell) - **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)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (95-0)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (41-1)

**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1458** (Miller/Dunlap) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. Relates to State and Education Employees Group Insurance; allows eligible employees to elect to cover all dependent children and not cover a spouse; provides for subsequent enrollment; requires the employee to file an affidavit acknowledging the choice. (74 §§ 1303, 1309)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (98-0)

5/24/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)

5/25/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1469** (Langmacher/Monson) - **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)

2/24/99 Amended and Passed - House (99-0)

3/29/99 Bill Passed - Senate (35-6)

4/19/99 In Conference Committee

**HB 1510** (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/EDUCATION ENTITIES**. Appropriates to various education entities; Sections 7 and 15 reappropriate and redesignate funds for Advanced Placement Initiatives; Section 20 states purposes for funds allocated for the Advanced Placement Program; Section 23 states purposes for funds allocated for Staff Development which includes funds for scholarships to Great Expectations Summer Institutes and for Professional Development Institutes; Section 24 apportions funds for telecommunications and for implementing telecommunications curriculum; Section 25 states that a portion of funds allocated for Community Education Grants be expended on a contractual basis to a community education consortium group which is associated with a State System institution for providing coordination services for community education programs; Section 27 apportions funds allocated for Education Leadership Oklahoma, including funds to be used to provide program development and evaluation by the Teacher Preparation Commission and curriculum enhancement and monitoring programs for teacher applicants on a contract basis with a State System institute; Section 35 apportions funds for contracting with the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education; Sections 46 - 56 pertain to the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics; Section 46 appropriates \$102,734 to the school; Section 47 appar-

tions funds for developing and offering pilot outreach programs in science and mathematics; Sections 48 - 52 reappropriate and redesignate funds for the school; Sections 57 - 59 appropriate \$35,601 to the Teacher Preparation Commission and set budget limitations.

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (94-2)

5/21/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (38-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**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.

2/8/99 Passed House (83-18)

4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (45-0)

4/29/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

**HB 1523** (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. Appropriates to various health entities, including the University Hospitals Authority. The conference committee substitute appropriates to various health service agencies; Section 18 states legislative intent that certain funds appropriated in SB 161 be used for contractual services with the Perinatal Continuing Education Program within the OU College of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and for the OU Health Sciences Center for health services programs for women and children who are uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise unable to pay for services; requires the OUHSC to file a monthly report with the State Department of Health detailing the services provided to such patients; Sections 19 and 20 transfer funds from SB 161 to be used for establishing family resource programs, known as the Children First Program and require the State Department of Health to contract with a university-related program for a performance-based evaluation of programs; Section 29 sets budgetary limitations for the University Hospitals Authority.

5/20/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (96-1)

5/21/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1527** (Settle/Haney) - **GEORGE NIGH REHABILITATION INSTITUTE**. Transfers the George Nigh Rehabilitation Institute from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the State Regents.

5/27/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-1)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (44-1)

5/27/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1528** (Settle/Haney) - **APPROPRIATIONS/UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS**. Appropriates to the University Hospitals Authority; limits the salary of the director. The conference committee substitute transfers certain positions at Western State Psychiatric Center from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to the Department of Corrections; modifies procedure for participation in state wage enhancement program; requires the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to adjust the nursing facility per diem rate; authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs and War Veterans commission to sell certain timber; creates the HIV/AIDS drug assistance revolving fund for the State Board of Health.

2/8/99 Amended and Passed House (92-9)

4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (45-1)

5/27/99 CCR Rejected - House, Further Conference Requested

**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.

2/8/99 Amended and Passed House (95-5)  
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (48-0)  
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

**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), Teacher Preparation and the University Hospitals Authority.

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (97-2)  
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (47-0)  
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

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

2/22/99 Amended and Bill and Emergency Passed - House (87-12)  
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (47-0)  
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

**HB 1574** (Settle/Haney) - **RETIREMENT FUNDING**. Directs the Director of State Finance to transfer certain funds to the Special Cash Fund; requires the Office of State Finance to separately account for revenues deposited to the credit of the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund; requires that 3.54 percent of sales and use tax and income tax revenues be placed to the credit of said fund until deposits to the fund exceed \$136 million for FY 00; repeals Section 28 of SB 161 which appropriates \$135,828,803 to the Teachers' Retirement System and Section 38 which appropriates to the Department of Central Services.

5/19/99 House Rejects Conference Committee Report, Requests Further Conference  
5/21/99 Second CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (55-43)  
5/21/99 Second CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (72-22)  
**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1584** (Settle/Haney) - **SALES TAX EXEMPTION**. The conference committee substitute exempts sales by colleges or universities from the tourism promotion tax. (68 § 50012)

5/26/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (99-0)  
5/26/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (42-1)  
5/27/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1588** (Sellers/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. The second conference committee substitute provides that plan years for purposes of State and Education Employees Group Insurance shall commence on Jan. 1 beginning in 2002; adjusts other state health insurance plan years accordingly; requires that the bid submission date be set no later than the third Friday of June of the previous year; allows a retiree who is receiving a benefit or terminates employment with a vested benefit from Teachers' Retirement and who becomes enrolled in the health insurance plan offered by the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Act, may elect to purchase life insurance benefits in certain amounts and at a certain cost; requires OTRS to provide OSEEGIB information concerning the employers of retired and vested members necessary to allow OSEEGIB to track eligibility for continued coverage; pro-

vides that for the affected state health plans, for the plan year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending Dec. 31, 2001, deductible amounts shall be reduced by one-half of the full one-year deductible amount. (74 §§ 1306, 1316.1, 1316.3, 1321, 1363, 1369/1371).

5/20/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (95-0)

5/24/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1592** (Eddins/Williams) - **NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY/LITERACY**. Requires the establishment of a toll-free statewide literacy services referral system as funds become available; deletes provisions for the creation of a literacy screening system; requires the State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, 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, if funds are available, to participate in the National Assessment of Adult Literacy; repeals section relating to the re-creation and purpose of the Literacy Initiatives Commission. The conference committee substitute requires that with the 2003-2004 school year, high school students must complete four years of English and three each of math, science and social studies. (70 §§ 8001, 8003)

2/24/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (98-0)

3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (46-0)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (96-1)

**HB 1599** (Staggs/Williams) - **SCHOOL TESTING**. Requires the State Board of Education to post on the Internet criterion-referenced sample tests that reflect the actual tests administered to students; requires that copies of each test be available for inspection in at least one location in each school district which can be accessed by the public, including higher education institutions; requires the State Board of Education, beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, to require criterion-referenced tests for students in grades five and eight; requires the State Department of Education to develop, field-test, and implement by the 2000-2001 school year criterion-referenced tests for the third grade in certain areas; requires the State Board to evaluate academic competencies to ensure that they will prepare students for post-secondary studies at higher education institutions and vo-tech schools without the need for remediation in core curriculum areas; requires that criterion-referenced tests in 11<sup>th</sup> grade be replaced by end-of-instruction exams; requires that the results of certain criterion-referenced tests be published annually by the State Board for the entire state by district and by site; encourages school districts to use state test performance indices as a portion of students' grades and to report the test performance index on student transcripts; requires the State Board of Education to implement a program of recognition and incentive, including financial awards subject to availability of funds; 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; creates a legislative committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on School Curriculum Standards; repeals a section relating to recommendations for test performance standards. The conference committee substitute adds a new section requiring the Education Oversight Board to publish state, district and site level reports including the percentage of students who perform at various levels on certain tests; repeals another section relating to certain low-performing schools. (70 §§ 1210.508, 1210.513, 1210.514, 1210.541)

2/24/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (99-1)

4/13/99 Floor Substitute Amended and Passed - Senate (44-3)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (90-5)

5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)

**HB 1622** (Askins/Hobson) - **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 develop forms and instructions to be used for 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. The conference committee substitute adds sections requiring the Joint Committee on Budget and Program Oversight to conduct an examination and analysis pursuant to the Oklahoma Program Performance Budgeting and Accountability Act; repeals sections relating to a certain initiative and procedures governing certain federal funds. (62 §§ 45.1/45.9)

2/25/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (98-0)

4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/27/99 Second CCR Submitted to House

**HB 1647** (Deutschendorf/Williams) - **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 chatrooms; requires that proposals for Internet chatrooms 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)

**5/17/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1649** (Deutschendorf/Williams) - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY/ONENET**. Creates an Oklahoma School Technology Fund, to be administered by the Department of Education; requires local exchange telecommunications service providers 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 \$13 million; requires that \$4 million of the \$12 million be distributed to the public schools to implement web-based software to create a system for comparing certain student, testing, teacher certification, curriculum and financial reporting data; \$5 million for upgrading OneNet to enable interactive video conferencing capabilities for every public school site in the state through the OneNet network; \$3 million to be distributed on a per-student basis to provide telecommunications end-line equipment to schools; \$1 million to be provided for electronic communication to each classroom for telecommunications access in case of disruptions or disturbances in the classroom; provides that funds may be used for enhancement of current technology; allows local exchange telecommunications service providers to apply to the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund for recovery of nonrecurring costs of installation of T-1 digital circuits only. (17 § 139.109)

3/8/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - House (65-35)  
4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (35-7)  
4/27/99 In Conference Committee

**HB 1650** (Deutschendorf/Williams) - **SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY**. Creates the "Virtual Internet School in Oklahoma Network (VISION) Act"; establishes, if funds are available, 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 State Department of Education as the coordinating agency for the pilot program; gives Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) the responsibility for the delivery of instructional content; requires that nine public school districts, each representing a different area of the state, be selected to participate in the pilot program; specifies selection criteria; creates a Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee to oversee the program; outlines the Committee's responsibilities. (70 §§ 1210.721/1210.726)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (87-8)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (28-0)

5/18/99 Emergency Failed

5/19/99 Emergency Reconsidered and Passed - Senate (44-0)

**5/26/99 Signed by Governor**

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

**4/5/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1664** (Eddins/Cain) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/DENTAL**. Requires that insurance coverage for dental procedures for certain minors and severely disabled persons include coverage for anesthesia practitioner expenses for the administration of anesthesia. (36 § 6060.6)

**4/19/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1681** (Seikel/Monson) - **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 provider under certain conditions; creates the "Managed Care External Review Act; provides for review of denial of reimbursement for or coverage of a medical treatment or service. The conference committee substitute requires the specialist to agree to abide by the terms of the plan provider's contract if the terms are commensurate with the terms of contracts for similar specialists; provides that the specialist shall be responsible for the covered person's primary and specialty care only if the specialist is willing to abide by the plan's terms; exempts certified workplace medical plans from the definition of "managed care plan." (36 §§ 6060.7/6060.9, 6550/6552)

3/3/99 Bill Passed - House (71-27)  
4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (40-2)  
5/26/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (98-0)  
5/27/99 CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (32-1)

**HB 1745** (Frame/Stipe) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY**. Adds to list of acts which constitute an unfair claim settlement the act of 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, with certain exceptions. (36 § 1250.5)

5/20/99 Second CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (99-0)

5/20/99 Second CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)

**5/27/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1748** (Blackburn/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/BEHAVIORAL**. Creates a 24-member Task Force on Behavioral Health to make recommendations regarding the cooperative and coordinated delivery of behavioral health services by state agencies responsible for providing such services. (43A § 3-113)

5/25/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - House (81-12)

5/25/99 Second CCR Adopted, Bill Passed - Senate (46-0)

5/26/99 Signed and Transmitted to Governor

**HB 1759** (Benson/Taylor) - **TUITION SCHOLARSHIP/CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION/SCHOOL TESTING/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 general enrollment fees 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 2002-2003 school year be the first students eligible for benefits; limits the number of credits for which general enrollment fees will be satisfied to not exceed 60 hours, with not more than 30 hours in any one year; provides that if an eligible applicant receives state or federal tuition aid, the Regents shall adjust the award to cover only the unpaid portion, if any; 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 core-curriculum courses; removes authorization for vo-tech courses to be included; requires remediation of students who do not perform satisfactorily on the mathematics portion of norm-referenced tests contingent upon the provision of appropriated funds; requires the Board, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, to contract to administer a series of grade-level appropriate, nationally normed, norm-referenced tests designed to determine the level of achievement attained by Oklahoma public school students; specifies norm-referenced tests to be administered; requires that the twelfth-grade criterion-referenced tests be replaced with end-of-instruction tests; specifies requirements for such tests; requires the Board to adopt a series of three student-performance-levels for end-of-instruction tests, with performance levels similar to those used for achievement levels on the National Assessment of Educational Progress; specifies requirements for reporting of tests results; 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 in order to obtain needed competencies; 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 \$7,000; 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 at-risk students; states legislative intent to provide funds to school districts to hire school counselors at the elementary level; creates the "Education Open Transfer Act"; provides for transfer of students; allows receiving districts to provide transportation to certain transferred students; states legislative intent to appropriate money for increasing teacher salaries for teachers with three or more years of teaching experience; creates the "Charter Schools Act"; provides specifications for proposal to proposed sponsor; provides that a sponsor of charter school may be a board of education, a vo-tech institution, a governing board of a higher education institution, a municipality or the State Board of Education; provides that a sponsor may contract with a person, organization, public school, public body, or governing board of a public or private college or university; provides for applications for sponsorship, contracts, curriculum, testing, employment of teachers, and State Aid; requires the State Board of Education to develop an Academic Performance Index (API) to measure performance of schools and to develop an Academic Performance Award Program; expresses legislative intent that on or before July 1, 2004, salaries of certified Oklahoma teachers shall equal the regional average and on or before July 1, 2005, Oklahoma's average per-pupil-expenditure shall equal the regional average; provides that each day a child attends kindergarten for six hours shall be counted as one day of average daily attendance; sets a series of goals for high school core curriculum and specifies courses permitted for such curriculum. The conference committee substitute provides that beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, increases core curriculum for high school graduation to four units of language arts and three units each of math, science and social studies; requires a minimum of six class periods per day; provides for a diploma of honor; requires that math teachers in grades six through eight be certified in mathematics; enacts the "Oklahoma Charter Schools Act"; authorizes charter schools in districts with average daily membership of 5,000 or more in counties with a population of 500,000 or more and districts with 5,000 or more ADM for which a letter has been signed by each legislator whose legislative district includes all or part of the school districts, filed with the House Speaker and the Senate President Pro Tempore; provides for pilot charter school program; outlines application process; requires application to local board of education; provides that the local board of education shall be the charter school sponsor; provides for appeal to the State Board of Education; requires written charter school contract; mandates that the charter schools comply with certain requirements; limits charter school contracts to no more than three years, with provision for renewal; provides for funding; creates the "Education Open Transfer Act"; requires that school transfers be granted with approval of the receiving district; requires boards of education to adopt an open transfer policy; provides for emergency transfers; provides that employers owing an average of \$10,000 or more per month in taxes shall pay the amount withheld as required under the Federal Semiweekly Deposit Schedule; authorizes school boards to adopt dress codes; requires the State Board to develop an Academic Performance Index; outlines indicators to be included; creates the "Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Act"; requires participating students to be Oklahoma residents and a graduate of an Oklahoma high school with a diploma of honor with an ACT score of 22 or higher and a total adjusted gross family income of not more than \$70,000; provides for payment of general enrollment fees or tuition for students at higher education institutions and postsecondary vocational-technical schools; limits the number of courses for which fees shall be paid to 60 credit hours; creates the Oklahoma Tuition Scholarship Trust Fund; provides for remediation of students who do not perform satisfactorily on the math portion of certain tests; provides for payment of up to \$100 per credit hour for teachers seeking certification in math, for up to 24 credit hours; modifies provisions relating to student loans; requires expansion of alternative education programs; provides for full-day kindergarten; repeals section relating to transfers of students. The second conference committee substitute takes pre-algebra out of the list of acceptable math electives for the three math units; clarifies that Applied Mathematics I

and II and computer science courses may be taken at either the comprehensive high school or vo-tech school; adds technology to the list of acceptable applied courses and clarifies that applied science courses may be taken at either a comprehensive high school or vo-tech; clarifies that if a school uses block scheduling, it must be equivalent to a six-period academic day; adds the requirement of a 3.0 GPA to earn an honors diploma; specifies eligibility standards for school districts over 5,000 ADM to participate in a charter school program; adds an area vo-tech board as an eligible sponsor for a charter school; changes the charter school appeal entity from the State Board of education to mediation or binding arbitration pursuant to the Dispute Resolution Act; specifies that the sponsor will pay mediation or arbitration costs; clarifies that receiving districts may deny transfers of students with disciplinary problems; renumbers sections. (70 §§ 2610/2613)

3/9/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - House (94-5)

4/13/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (47-0)

5/27/99 Second CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (68-26)

5/27/99 Second CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (28-16)

**HB 1767** (Ervin/Robinson) - **TELEMEDICINE**. Authorizes the Health Department, contingent upon the appropriation of funds designated for Telemedicine Services Programs, to award competitive grants to hospitals or health care facilities that deliver medical and other health care services through a telemedicine network; requires matching funds or in-kind contributions from the grant recipient. (63 § 1-2703)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (97-1)

5/18/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)

**5/21/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1771** (Ervin/Henry) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Requires the State Insurance Fund to declare and pay a dividend to policyholders if the ratio of direct premiums to surplus exceeds 1:1.75; requires that any dividend paid to a state agency be deposited in the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; allows state agencies to obtain private-sector workers' compensation coverage if it can be obtained at a premium the same or lower than that offered by the State Insurance Fund; changes the name of the Special Indemnity Fund to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; provides that for actions filed on or after Nov. 1, 1999, the Multiple Injury Trust Fund shall not be liable for payment of permanent partial disability awards; 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 becomes available shall be returned to the trust fund. (85 §§ 2b, 3.10, 22, 42)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (90-11)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (44-3)

**5/26/99 Vetoed by Governor**

**HB 1809** (Plunk/Shurden) - **CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**. Authorizes the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to impose penalties on chiropractic physicians who violate the Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act or any related rule, or for willfully aiding or assisting an insurer or administrator to deny claims which under the terms of an insurance contract are covered services and are medically necessary; increases the scholarship amounts per student that may be awarded under the Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program from \$3,000 to \$6,000. (59 §§ 161.12, 161.16)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed - House (100-0)

5/19/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed - Senate (37-4)

**5/26/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1826** (Boyd/Fisher) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/EXTERNAL REVIEW**. Creates the "Oklahoma Managed Care External Review Act"; provides that any person insured through a health benefit plan shall have the right to an external review by an independent review organization of a decision under the plan to deny coverage of or reimbursement for a medical treatment or service to the insured that is otherwise a covered plan when all applicable internal appeals procedures have been exhausted, the denial is based on a determination by the health benefit plan that the service or treatment is not medically necessary, medically appropriate or medically effective, the usual, customary and reasonable charge or allowable charge, as shown in the plan's fee schedule, of the service or treatment for which coverage or reimbursement was denied by the plan exceeds \$1,000 and the insured person or designee agrees to the terms and conditions of external review; provides exemptions; requires the State Board of Health and the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate rules for internal review procedures for plans subject to licensure or regulation by the applicable agency; requires the insured to pay \$50 to the health benefit plan toward the cost of an external review, with the plan being responsible for the remaining costs of the review process; limits appeals by an insured; prohibits a plan from removing a physician from its plan, refusing to renew a physician or otherwise disciplining a physician for advocating on behalf of an insured in either an internal review or external review; requires certification by the Board of Health for independent review organizations. (63 §§ 2528.1/2528.10)

**5/17/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1841** (Rice/Easley) - **HAZARD MITIGATION**. Authorizes the Department of Civil Emergency Management to develop and maintain a comprehensive mitigation plan to reduce or eliminate the effects of a natural disaster in a cost-effective manner; creates the State Hazard Mitigation Team composed of the administrative heads of 14 agencies or their designees; includes on the team the head of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey; allows the Team Coordinator, during certain circumstances, to require participation of the heads of any other state agencies as deemed appropriate. (63 § 683.6)

**4/6/99 Signed by Governor**

**HB 1846** (Calvey/Brown) - **LEAVE-SHARING/DISASTER LEAVE**. Extends the scope of the state leave-sharing program to include donations to state employees who are victims of a presidentially declared national disaster in Oklahoma after May 1, 1999, for a period of six months after the declaration. The amendments extend the scope of the state leave-sharing program to include donations to state employees who are victims of a presidentially declared national disaster in Oklahoma after May 1, 1999, for a period of six months after the declaration if the employee or a relative or household member suffered a physical injury or the domicile of the employee or home of a relative was damaged or destroyed as a result of the disaster; authorize an appointing authority to grant leave without pay not to exceed 15 working days to a state employee affected by a presidentially declared disaster after May 1, 1999, if the employee or a relative or household member suffered a physical injury or the domicile of the employee or home of a relative was damaged or destroyed as a result of the disaster; allows school districts to offer leave-sharing to employees who are victims. The floor substitute also allows public bodies to grant a maximum 15 days' leave with pay, to employees affected by a presidentially declared national disaster in Oklahoma after May 1, 1999, if the employee or a relative or household member suffered a physical injury or if the employee's or a relative's domicile was damaged or destroyed as a result of the disaster; allows such employees to receive up to 15 days of donated leave. (74 § 840-2.23)

5/17/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (98-0)

5/24/99 Floor Substitute Adopted and Passed - Senate (42-0)

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

**HCR 1021** (Benson/Rabon) - **JOB TRAINING.** Directs the State Workforce Investment Board authorized by federal law, however denominated, to exercise the most deliberate consideration prior to implementing modifications to the system by which and the designated areas through which federal job training and related federal block grant funds are distributed; directs that the existing network and system of Service Delivery Areas that have demonstrated positive results in administration of federal job training programs be continued in force for purposes of implementing provisions of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998; directs that the existing network and Service Delivery Area system be used in their current configuration either alone or in conjunction with local workforce investment boards in order to avoid harm to the mechanism by which job training skills are provided to state citizens; directs all state agencies charged with responsibility for management, distribution, expenditure and accounting of both federal and state funds for implementation of federal block grants related to job training to exercise the most extreme care in modifying the existing system for management of federal job training programs and refrain from action that could jeopardize existing job training programs in the state.

**3/23/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1024** (Ervin) - **TELEMEDICINE.** Memorializes the U.S. Congress to enact laws or otherwise cause the Health Care Financing Administration to revise the current Medicare payment structure to make appropriate payments to health care providers that would encourage the development and use of telemedicine technology.

**5/17/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1027** (Taylor/Muegge) - **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.** Declares Monday, April 5, 1999, as "International Student Awareness Day".

**4/6/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1034** (Leist/Muegge) - **4-H DAY.** Declares April 21, 1999, as "4-H Day at the Legislature"; traces 4-H back to the enactment in 1914 of the Smith-Lever Act which established the Cooperative Extension System within the United States Department of Agriculture, the state land-grant universities and the counties.

**4/27/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1035** (Fields/Stipe) - **MCALESTER'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.** Honors the City of McAlester, Oklahoma, upon the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; mentions the higher education facility, an extension of Eastern Oklahoma State College, that recently opened with an enrollment the first week of over 1,200 students.

5/5/99 Adopted - House

5/25/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/26/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1038** (Sweeden/Harrison) - **FAREN LEE REVARD/OSU STUDENT.** Congratulates Faren Lee Revard, 1999 Miss Indian Oklahoma, on her outstanding accomplishments and successes. Ms. Revard is scheduled to graduate in the summer of 1999 from Oklahoma State University where she has participated in the Multicultural Leadership Development Project, the Collegiate CattleWomen, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the Native American Student Association, the President's Leadership Council and the Freshmen Representative Council.

**4/29/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1045** (Braddock/Robinson) - **VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY TASK FORCE.** Creates the Virtual University Task Force to work with the State Regents to study the virtual university concept and the offering of online courses by higher education institutions in Oklahoma and to collaborate with the Regents to make recommendations on the development of actions and policies needed to ensure the effectiveness and quality of online education; requires that a report of findings and recommendations be issued by Feb. 1, 2000.

5/13/99 Adopted - House

5/27/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/27/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1047** (Lindley/Leftwich) - **NEUROFIBROMATOSIS AWARENESS MONTH.** Declares May to be Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month in Oklahoma; recognizes the research efforts of John J. Mulvihill, M.D., and Rosita Kirshman, M.D., at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

5/13/99 Adopted - House

5/27/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/27/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1052** (Wells/Morgan) - **LARKIN WARNER.** Commends Larkin Warner, who announced his retirement as Regents Professor of Economics at Oklahoma State University, for his career and efforts to improve and educate individuals during his career through his study of the field of economics; recognizes Dr. Warner for his accomplishments including helping to develop the Department of Economics and the College of Business Administration at OSU and serving as Staff Director for the State Regents Citizens' Commission on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education; declares May 11, 1999, as "Dr. Larkin Warner Day".

5/11/99 Adopted - House

**HCR 1059** (Toure/Horner) - **AFRICAN-AMERICAN GRADUATE STUDENTS.** Recognizes African-American students who integrated the graduate schools of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

5/21/99 Adopted - House

5/25/99 Adopted - Senate

**5/25/99 To Secretary of State**

**HCR 1065** (Begley/Morgan) - **HEALTH INSURANCE.** Extends the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Program enrollment period for education employees to June 15, 1999.

5/27/99 Adopted - House

## **HOUSE RESOLUTIONS**

**HR 1011** (Seikel) - **OU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.** Requests that the OU Board of Regents review clinical contracts of the College of Medicine and reevaluate its faculty compensation plan.

3/4/99 Second reading - Referred to House Public Health Committee

**HR 1012** (Boyd) - **OSU/OU/NCAA INVITATIONS.** Commends Oral Roberts Golden Eagles, the OSU Cowboys, the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane and the OU Sooners on their successful basketball seasons and their invitations to the NCAA Division I basketball tournaments.

**3/11/99 To Secretary of State**

**HR 1014** (Benson) - **ANTHONY PHARMACY LECTURE AT OU.** Celebrates the inaugural of the Linda H. and Calvin J. Anthony Distinguished Entrepreneur in Pharmacy Lecture Series at the University of Oklahoma on March 29, 1999.

**3/29/99 To Secretary of State**

**HR 1015** (Bonny) - **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MONTH.** Proclaims April 1999 as “Oklahoma Science and Technology Month”.

**3/31/99 To Secretary of State**

**HR 1026** (Beutler) - **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.** Expresses the House of Representatives’ intent that certain agricultural education courses be used as core curriculum course requirements for high school graduation; expresses the House’s concern that both the State Board of Education and the State Regents have not allowed for the flexibility of accepting agricultural education courses as qualifying courses for high school graduation requirements and for college admission requirements and strongly directs that such consideration be given in the future.

**4/28/99 To Secretary of State**

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