



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friday, May 7, 1999

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

From: Bryce Fair & Carolyn McCoy

Highlights This Week:

Deadlines Set for GCCA Subcommittees: Legislative leaders this week announced working deadlines for the subcommittees of the General Conference Committee on Appropriations (GCCA). Subcommittees were instructed to complete budget decisions for one-half of their agencies by Monday, May 10 and finalize the remaining one-half by Thursday, May 13.

Senate Names Conference Members for Tuition Bill: The Senate this week named five members to the conference committee for HB 1296, the tuition bill. The senators join 15 house members who were named to the committee last week. The Senate members include:

Democrats

Sen. Cal Hobson (D – Lexington, Senate author)
Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney (D – Seminole)
Sen. Mike Morgan (D – Stillwater)

Republicans

Sen. Kathleen Wilcoxson (R – OKC)
Sen. Mark Snyder (R – Edmond)

Virtual University Task Force Proposed: Rep. David Braddock (D – Altus) and Rep. Abe Deutschen-dorf (D – Lawton) this week introduced House Concurrent Resolution 1045 which would create a Virtual University Task Force. The Task Force would be made up of 19 members, including 4 legislators, 14 higher education officials (including representatives from 11 specified institutions), and the Secretary of Education. The Task Force would be charged with conducting a study of internet-based higher education during the legislative interim and making a report on findings and recommendations to the House Speaker and Senate Pro Tempore by February 1, 2000. The resolution has been assigned to the House Education Committee. To see the complete text of the resolution, go to:

http://www2.lsb.state.ok.us/1999-00HB/HCR1045_int.rtf

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

- May 10, 1999; Monday; 1:30 p.m.; Senate Lounge, State Capitol
Senate Education Committee
Agenda: Executive nomination of James D. Harrel, of Leedy, to the Board of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, to serve a nine-year term ending May 16, 2008, succeeding Frederick McCann (sponsored by Sen. Robert Kerr, D – Altus).

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:

May 28, FridaySine Die Adjournment

Actions on Bills This Week:

SENATE ACTIONS

- Bills Passed on Senate Floor:
SB 2 - Health insurance - mental illness
SR 29 - L. Beauchamp Selman

HOUSE ACTIONS

- Bills Passed on House Floor:
SB 2 - Health insurance - mental illness
HB 1005 - Retirement - authorization
HB 1203 - Dangerous substances
HB 1826 - Health insurance - external review
HCR 1035 - City of McAlester

GOVERNOR’S ACTIONS

- Bills Signed by the Governor:
SB 372 - College Savings Plan
HB 1210 - Health insurance - prostate cancer

CHANGES TO THE LIST

Bills Added to the List:

- SR 28 - Lions' Clubs Mobile Screening Unit
- SR 29 - Sen. L. Beauchamp Selman
- HCR 1045 - Virtual University Task Force
- HCR 1052 - Larkin Warner

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].

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BILLS OF INTEREST TO HIGHER EDUCATION

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Forty-Seventh Legislature – First Session 1999
Status Reported as of May 6, 1999

SENATE BILLS

SB 2 (Taylor/Benson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/MENTAL ILLNESS.** Creates the “Dr. James M. Behrman Mental Health Parity Act”; requires group health insurance and health benefit plans to provide benefits for treatment of adults, adolescents and children with severe mental illness; limits the requirement to benefits provided through in-network coverage in a managed care system; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; makes such requirement inapplicable to an agreement, contract or policy in which such coverage will result in an increase of more than 2 percent in premium cost; sunsets mental health benefit requirements in the measure on May 1, 2003; requires that the Insurance Commissioner submit a report by Dec. 1, 2002, analyzing the direct incremental premium costs of requiring health plans to include severe mental illness benefits; provides a 50-percent tax credit for employers based upon any increase in premium costs for plans that provide mental health coverage. The conference committee substitute requires health benefit plans to provide benefits for treatment of severe mental illness; requires that such benefits be equal to treatment of and subject to the same preauthorization and utilization review mechanisms as all other physical diseases and disorders; provides an exemption for policies providing coverage for a specified disease or other limited benefit coverage and for groups with 50 or fewer employees; defines "severe mental illness" as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness), major depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizoaffective disorder; exempts health benefit plans 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 also include, to the extent possible, an analysis of any other 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 §§ 6060.10/6060.12; 68 § 2357.66)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (33-15)

3/29/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (75-24)

5/6/99 CCR Adopted - Senate, Bill Passed Senate (36-5)

5/6/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed House (74-22)

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)
4/21/99 In Conference Committee
5/3/99 Re-Referred to GCCA

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)

2/25/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (47-0)

4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (92-9)

4/29/99 In Conference Committee

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 225 percent of the federal poverty guidelines but not if the student's family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four. (70 §§ 2603/2605)

3/3/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (41-0)

4/14/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (98-0)

5/5/99 In Conference Committee

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

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

2/9/99 Amended and Passed - Senate (46-0)

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

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

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**. Appropriates to the State Regents and the Physician Manpower Training Commission; limits the salary of the Commission director.

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

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

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

SB 151 (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS/STATE REGENTS**. This is a shell bill that appropriates to the State Regents.

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

4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (95-4)

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

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.

4/8/99 Signed by Governor

SB 166 (Haney/Settle) - **APPROPRIATIONS /PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION**. This is a shell bill that modifies budgetary limitations of the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

2/10/99 Amended and Passed - Senate (48-0)
4/15/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (97-2)
4/21/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

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. (74 § 1707)

2/22/99 Passed - Senate (33-12)
4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed House (97-2)
4/13/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA: Education

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. (70 §§ 626.4, 626.7)

2/22/99 Bill Passed - Senate (44-3)
3/31/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (98-0)
4/29/99 In Conference Committee

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 retired education employees participating in a plan offered by the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to continue life insurance in force; limits the face amount of life insurance to no more than \$50,000. (74 § 1316.1)

4/5/99 Title stricken
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (100-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

SB 296 (Morgan/Stanley) - **DENTISTRY**. Adds definition of “accredited dental college” to Dental Act. (59 § 328.3)

3/1/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (45-0)
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (101-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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 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)

3/8/99 Bill Passed - Senate (42-1)
4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (99-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/22/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (47-0)
3/30/99 Floor Substitute Adopted, Bill and Emergency Passed - House (101-0)
4/27/99 Senate Concurs in House Amendments, Passes Bill (44-0)

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. (74 §§ 1306, 1309, 1316.2, 1316.3, 1363, 1371)

2/25/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (41-5)
4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (100-0)
4/14/99 In Conference Committee

SB 376 (Leftwich/Paulk) - **PRIVATIZATION OF STATE FUNCTIONS/TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT**. 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 two years; prohibits certain activities by business entities awarded such contracts; prohibits state agencies, whether or not subject to the Central Purchasing Act, from contracting with any temporary employment services provider where the difference between the billing rate and the payment rate for each position specified exceeds 18 percent of the billing rate amount; requires the temporary employment service to provide certain salary and billing rates when submitting bids for service; requires that preference be given to providers with the lowest percent difference between the bill rate and the pay rate. (74 §§ 85.9H, 595/595.6)

3/8/99 Bill Passed - Senate (36-9)
4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (76-23)
5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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) - **MASTER LEASE/FINANCE AUTHORITY.** Authorizes the State Regents to establish a program for financing the use or acquisition of personal property in order to achieve a cost savings and develop a system for reporting lease or lease-purchase transactions by State System institutions; provides that funds for this purpose shall be available for transactions having a minimum value of \$50,000 and a maximum value of \$5 million; authorizes the Regents to reduce the allocation of funds that could otherwise be made to an institution in order to make payments for an item with the lease financing program. (70 §§ 3206.5; 3210; 62 §41.14)

3/9/99 Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)
3/24/99 House Committee - Committee Substitute Do Pass
4/13/99 Floor Substitute Adopted and Passed - House (97-4)
4/28/99 In Conference Committee

SB 439 (Monson/Roberts) - **HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT RATES.** Requires the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board to schedule a hearing 30 days prior to adopting any 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. (74 § 1325)

3/1/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (45-0)
4/5/99 Bill Passed - House (101-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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 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. (51 § 24A.19)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (45-0)
4/8/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (97-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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. (70 § 17-116.10)

3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (26-15)
4/7/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (94-5)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/22/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-2)
3/18/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (93-1)
4/28/99 In Conference Committee

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)
4/29/99 In Conference Committee

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)

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

SB 647 (Mickle/Askins) - **STATE AGENCY ACCOUNTS.** Provides that the State Treasurer may waive the counter signature requirement for vouchers against agency clearing accounts and special accounts if certain requirements are met; provides that if the State Treasurer has an agreement with a financial institution to provide services to the State Treasurer, a state agency may 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. (62 §§ 7.5a, 71)

3/9/99 Bill Passed - Senate (45-0)

4/8/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (97-0)

4/19/99 In Conference Committee

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 re-

porting 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)

4/19/99 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)

4/27/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/23/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (43-1)

4/1/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - House (93-0)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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; designates certain property at Burns Flat in Washita County as spaceport territory; 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; 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)

2/16/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (46-0)

4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (96-2)

4/19/99 In Conference Committee

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)
4/13/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/24/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)
3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (101-0)

4/28/99 In Conference Committee

SB 758 (Horner/Ross) - **SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM.** States legislative intent that Oklahoma history, including African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and other ethnic groups in Oklahoma be included in the social studies core 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 amendment adds a list of other religious and ethnic groups to be included in social studies curriculum and excludes Satanists or homosexual churches. (70 § 11-103.6)

3/9/99 Bill Passed - Senate (32-12)

4/14/99 Bill Amended and Passed House (69-28)

5/5/99 In Conference Committee

SB 763 (Williams/Blackburn) - **PUBLIC SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONALS.** States legislative intent that the State Board of Education adopt a program for career development of public school paraprofessionals; states that the purpose of the program is to provide to paraprofessionals a system of career development based upon education and training advancement and to encourage excellence among paraprofessionals. (70 § 6-127A)

3/1/99 Bill Passed - Senate (39-4)

3/31/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (97-0)

4/29/99 In Conference Committee

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 established, 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)
4/8/99 Senate Rejects House Amendments, Requests Conference

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 Transmitted 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)

4/19/99 In Conference Committee

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 by Senate, to House

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

4/14/99 Referred to House Appropriations and Budget Committee

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

4/14/99 Referred to House Appropriations and Budget Committee

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

4/15/99 Referred to House Appropriations and Budget Committee

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

4/21/99 Referred to House Appropriations and Budget Committee

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; 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 Recrea-

tion Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 1989, and the Colvin Center Swimming Pools Restoration Project Revenue Bonds, Series 1993.

4/28/99 Introduced - Senate

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.

4/28/99 Introduced - 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 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/Morgan) - **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.

4/28/99 Introduced - Senate

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.

5/6/99 Adopted - Senate

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)

4/28/99 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)

2/16/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (94-0)

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

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

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 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

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)
5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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

2/22/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (98-1)
3/29/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (38-0)
4/29/99 In Conference Committee

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. (74 § 840-2.21)

2/25/99 Bill Passed - House (100-0)
4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (42-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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. (76 §§ 50.1)

3/2/99 Bill Passed - House (101-0)
3/30/99 Bill Passed - Senate (47-1)
5/3/99 In Conference Committee

HB 1197 (Leist/Price) - **AGRICULTURE ENHANCEMENT DIVERSIFICATION.** Enacts the “Agriculture Enhancement 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 interest groups 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 which includes the President of OSU or a designee. The conference committee substitute adds language relating to state-chartered warehouses. (2 §§ 5-3.5, 9-34)

2/23/99 Bill Passed - House (100-0)

3/30/99 Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)

5/5/99 CCR-CCS Submitted

HB 1201 (Ross/Horner) - **ACADEMIC SCHOLARS.** Adds Presidential Scholars to the Category II list of award qualifiers for the Academic Scholars Program; requires the Regents to annually report on the number of graduates who stay in the state and the number who leave Oklahoma; increases from 20 percent to 25 percent the number of awards that may go to nonresident students. (70 §§ 2403, 2404)

3/2/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (97-2)

3/23/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (38-9)

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/24/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (100-0)

3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (45-0)

5/3/99 CCR Adopted - House, Bill Passed House (94-4)

5/5/99 CCR Discussed and Laid Over - Senate

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)

2/11/99 House Amended and Passed (57-40)

3/30/99 Bill Passed - Senate (29-16)

4/28/99 House Concurred in Senate Amendments, Passed Bill (67-28)

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. (70 §§ 1210.901/ 1210.911)

- 3/3/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (92-7)
- 4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)
- 4/6/99 Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)
- 5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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. (70 § 3218.8)

- 3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (81-15)
- 3/30/99 Bill Passed - Senate (40-5)
- 5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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. (85 §§ 3.5, 16)

- 3/9/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (56-44)
- 3/29/99 Bill Passed - Senate (35-10)
- 4/27/99 In Conference Committee

HB 1318 (Stanley/Henry) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/FREEDOM OF CHOICE**. Modifies the Health Care Freedom of Choice Act; includes ambulatory surgical centers and home care agencies in the Act; provides for preferred provider organizations; provides penalties for violation of the act. (36 §§ 6053/6057.4, 3624)

- 3/3/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (99-1)
- 3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (34-7)

4/27/99 In Conference Committee

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.** Prohibits faculty permit holders from engaging in faculty or private practice of dentistry. (59 §§ 328.19, 328.21, 328.27)

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

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

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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

3/2/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (100-0)

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

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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 surgery, 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

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)

3/10/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (99-0)
4/7/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (45-0)
4/12/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference

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)

3/8/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (100-0)

3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (46-0)
4/5/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference

HB 1443 (Boyd/Morgan) - **MEDICAL RESEARCH**. Expands the list of entities authorized to provide and receive information for use in the course of studies for the purpose of reducing morbidity or mortality to include the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the American Osteopathic Association and the American Hospital Association. (63 § 1-1709)

3/2/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (100-0)
3/29/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (43-0)
5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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

3/10/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (99-0)
3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (44-0)
4/8/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference
5/3/99 Re-Referred to GCCA

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

2/3/99 Amended and Passed - House (99-2)
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (44-0)
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

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.

2/8/99 Amended and Passed House (96-5)
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (46-0)
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

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

2/8/99 Amended and Passed House (92-9)
4/5/99 Bill Amended and Passed Senate (45-1)
4/20/99 In Conference Committee - GCCA

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 1588 (Sellers/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE**. 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. (74 § 1306).

3/2/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (100-0)
4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (44-0)
5/6/99 In Conference Committee

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. (70 §§ 8001, 8003)

2/24/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (98-0)
3/30/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - Senate (46-0)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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 11th 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. (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)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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. (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)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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 chat rooms; requires that proposals for Internet chat rooms create a mechanism to allow students to contact and interact with teachers or other professionals when they are not at school, when the student needs assistance with courses or homework; directs the Board to determine pilot project criteria and establish a process for consideration of proposals; requires that proposals for pilot projects be considered on a statewide competitive basis; requires the Board, by Jan. 1, 2000, subject to availability of funds, to develop and implement a school testing assistance Internet web page to help students prepare for tests re-

quired 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)

3/2/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (93-8)

4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/6/99 CCR-CCS Submitted

HB 1649 (Deutschendorf/Robinson) - **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/Robinson) - **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 Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) as the coordinating agency for the pilot program; requires that at least six public school districts be selected to participate in the pilot program; specifies selection criteria; creates a Virtual Internet School Pilot Program Coordinating Committee to oversee the program. (70 §§ 1210.721/1210.725)

2/22/99 Bill and Emergency Passed - House (77-22)

4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (43-0)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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. (36 §§ 6060.7/6060.9, 6550/6552)

3/3/99 Bill Passed - House (71-27)

4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (40-2)

4/21/99 In Conference Committee

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)

2/25/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (100-0)

4/6/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (42-0)

4/20/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference

HB 1748 (Blackburn/Monson) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/BEHAVIORAL**. Creates a 19-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)

3/11/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - House (77-18)

4/7/99 Bill Passed - Senate (38-5)

4/22/99 House Rejects Senate Amendments, Requests Conference

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. (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)

5/3/99 In Conference Committee

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)

3/4/99 Floor Substitute Adopted and Passed - House (72-26)

4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (43-2)

4/28/99 In Conference Committee

HB 1771 (Ervin/Henry) - **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**. Changes the name of the Special Indemnity Fund to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; requires the Board of Managers of the State Insurance Fund to administer the Multiple Injury Trust Fund; authorizes the Board to transfer funds to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund to eliminate delinquent awards; requires reimbursement of insurance fund; makes the State Fund liable for premium taxes as if it were operating as a private carrier; 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; requires that the premium tax on premiums collected by the State Insurance Fund be paid by the 30th day of the month of receipt to the State Treasurer; provides for payment of interest on claims made on awards returned to the Multiple Injury Trust Fund after two years, if the claimant is subsequently found and claims the award; modifies apportionment of insurance fund premium tax proceeds as follows: to pay delinquent permanent partial disability awards and to build reserves of the Multiple Injury Trust Fund to \$5 million. (36 § 631)

3/1/99 Floor Substitute Amended, Adopted and Passed - House (83-18)

4/6/99 Bill Passed - Senate (44-1)

4/27/99 In Conference Committee

HB 1809 (Plunk/Shurden) - **CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**. Prohibits chiropractic physicians from assisting an insurer to deny claims which under the terms of the 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. (59 §§ 161.12, 161.16)

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

3/22/99 Title stricken

3/22/99 Senate Committee - Do Pass as Amended

3/30/99 Bill Amended and Passed - Senate (40-3)

5/6/99 In Conference Committee

HB 1826 (Boyd/Fisher) - **HEALTH INSURANCE/EXTERNAL REVIEW**. Creates the "Oklahoma Managed Care External Review Act"; provides for external review of a decision under a health benefit plan to deny coverage of or reimbursement for a medical treatment or service that is otherwise a covered benefit; requires an insured person or the insured's designee to pay \$50 toward the cost of external review; provides procedures for the review; requires the State Board of Health to promulgate rules for the certification of independent review organizations; provides qualifications for expert reviewers. The conference committee substitute 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 ap-

peals 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)

2/22/99 Bill Amended and Passed - House (97-1)

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

5/5/99 CCR Adopted - House, House Passed Bill (86-12)

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

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/Clay Pope) - 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.

4/5/99 Adopted by House

4/6/99 Introduced - Senate

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, and the state land-grant universities.

4/27/99 To Secretary of State

HCR 1035 (Fields/Stipe) - **MCALESTER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY**. Honors the City of McAlester, Oklahoma, upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary; mentions the recently opened higher education facility which is an extension of Eastern Oklahoma State College.

5/5/99 Adopted by House

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) - **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 on-line 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.

5/5/99 Referred to House Education Committee

HCR 1052 (Wells/Morgan) - **LARKIN WARNER**. Commends Larkin Warner, 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; designates May 11, 1999, as "Dr. Larkin Warner Day".

5/6/99 Introduced - 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 Transmitted 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 Transmitted to Secretary of State

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

3/31/99 Transmitted 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.

4/27/99 Adopted by House

4/28/99 Transmitted to Secretary of State

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