

TRAFFIC-CONTROL DEVICE TAMPERING BILL TO INCLUDE TRAFFIC CITATION

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Monday in session, members agreed to amend HB2078, dealing with tampering with traffic-control devices to include failure to yield to the right-of-way when exiting a subdivision. The bill, authored by Rep. Tommy Thomas, D-Atoka, is an attempt punish those who willfully deface, knockdown, injure, alter or remove any road sign or marker posted in Oklahoma.

The act would be a misdemeanor and punishment would be a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment in the county jail for a 30 day term, or both.

Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, amended the bill to include rules adopted for subdivisions. In particular, a rule that could warrant a traffic citation if, when an individual is exiting a subdivision, they do not yield the right-of-way.

Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, asked if youths attending college up in the Oklahoma panhandle would be subject to the bill. "Sometimes they just borrow the signs," he told Thomas.

Thomas said that he understood that the panhandle had their own set of rules, but in his county, it would be illegal.

The bill passed unanimously. It will now be heard in the Senate for further consideration.

AMERICA ONLINE TO EMPLOY UP TO 1,000 AT OKLAHOMA CITY CENTER

From Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) America Online, the world's largest and fastest growing online service will open a new customer support center in Oklahoma City, employing up to 1,000 over the next two years.

America Online has experienced rapid growth in the past year with its subscriber base growing to more than 5 million members. "AOL is excited about expanding its customer support facility to Oklahoma City as well as participating in helping to build the local community," says Stuart Welstein, site expansion manager for America Online. "AOL chose to open a new call center in Oklahoma City because of its pro business community and vast pool of skilled labor. In addition, the state's Quality Jobs Program was a very attractive incentive for expansion here."

"America Online's announcement reinforces the fact that Oklahoma City has the economic environment to attract expanding companies," says Clayton Bennett, chairman, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. "The Oklahoma City Chamber is pleased to have played a role in bringing such a quality company as America Online to our community."

America Online's Oklahoma City Call Center will be located in Shepherd Mall, 2720 Villa and is expected to be operational in May. Currently, America Online employs 55 support representatives at its Vienna, Va., headquarters; 365 in Tucson, Ariz.; 969 in Jacksonville, Fla.; and 359 in Ogden, Utah.

"With more than 5 million subscribers, Oklahoma welcomes this premier on-line service," said Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating. "In the cyberspace world, America Online is known for its customer support and service. For Oklahoma, it is a win-win situation."

America Online will host a job fair March 13-14 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd. For more information about the job fair call: 1-800-827-0035.