

HOUSE BILL GAINS PRAISE FROM MEMBERS AND GOVERNOR, PASSES HOUSE

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

■(GIT) HB2775 gained nonpartisan praise today in session. The measure, authored by Rep. Fred Perry, R-Tulsa, would give new corporations with earnings of \$25,000 or less an exemption from state taxes for up to five years. The measure passed successfully 90 to 10, but some members had questions concerning regulation.

Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, asked Perry if there were any provisions in the bill preventing a corporation from re-creating itself under a different name to receive the tax break again.

Rep. Leonard Sullivan, R-Oklahoma City, told Benson that 85 percent of jobs created in the state are by small business. He said the money would not be significant enough to entice most of those businesses into that scenario. The measure would save a company \$1,500 per year.

Perry agreed to strike the title and continue an open dialogue in codifying the bill. He agreed and stressed that the majority of new jobs in Oklahoma are created by small businesses and without adequate returns many declare bankruptcy within five years.

Rep. Robert Worthen, R-Oklahoma City, endorsed the measure. "Regarding fiscal impact of the bill, revenue would have gone to the general fund, but now it goes straight to the communities," Perry agreed. "There was too much concentration on the drain and not the spigot."

Governor Frank Keating also endorsed the bill. "As the state prepares to extend the Quality Jobs Act, which reduces taxes for new, larger businesses, it only makes sense to grant some tax relief to Oklahoma's small businesses during their first few years of operation and that is exactly what HB2775 does," he said.

CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From Oklahoma Department of Human Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma advocates for children and families, church and school teachers and administrators, and professionals in children and families services will exchange ideas at the First Conference "Creating Partnerships for Oklahoma Families" to be held March 18 and 19 at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center in Oklahoma City. This conference is co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth.

The DHS County Administrators' Association designed this conference to "bring together a cross-section of all stakeholders in the DHS mission to better serve the people of the State of Oklahoma," said Stephen R. Scott, DHS Area V Director. The conference is a project of the Customized Services Integration Team made up of DHS county directors from across the state.

DHS Director George Miller said, "This conference will provide a first rate training experience for all participants that will unleash a rapid expansion of much needed community services all over Oklahoma.

"Those who attend will not only increase their awareness of existing community resources, but will also learn of an array of successful innovations that can enhance the quality of life of many Oklahoma families in need."

"Any Oklahomans concerned about children and families should plan to attend the 'Creating Partnerships' conference," Scott said. "This will be a place to get new ideas and compare experiences with others in ways to build our communities even stronger."

The welcoming addresses will be given by Miller and Thomas Kemper, Director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, at 9 a.m. Monday. Monday evening a reception for registrants will be held at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

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