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cal enforcement district) to be assigned to full-time enforcement of state laws against youth access to tobacco."

Dr. J. Kevin Barry with the Oklahoma ABLE Commission said that within the last three months the points of sale of tobacco products has increased by 100, making a total of 6100 sites for which the Commission is responsible.

In relation to the issue, the Task Force discussed the repercussions resulting by the Synar Regulation. The Synar Amendment required all states to reach a 80% compliance rate with youth prevention tobacco laws by the year 2000. If the states fail to comply, they will lose up to 40% of federal substance abuse funding. In Oklahoma, that would mean a loss of \$6 million in federal funding which is the sole source of funding for the substance abuse programs in Oklahoma.

The Task Force is faced with finding a way to ensure Oklahoma reaches full compliance with the Synar Regulation. However, as Dr. Barry noted, a large source of the problem is vending machines that sell tobacco products. As the current statutes stand, the only one accountable if a minor purchases tobacco products from such a machine is the minor, not the owner of the machine.

The Task Force decided that the issue of the vending machine problem needs to be further explored before the next legislative session.

Dan Reich with the Oklahoma State Department of Education brought the group up to date with the latest efforts being made in the schools for tobacco prevention programs.

Reich also brought to the members' attention that while certain forms of education and prevention are mandated under HB1017, the efforts are not enough. The members agreed to support a curriculum proposed by the State Board of Education to be created and dispersed to teachers across the state as a teaching mechanism.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

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EDUCATION

GARRETT, COPPEDGE ADDRESS GOALS 2000

■(GIT) State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett and Dr. Floyd Coppedge, education secretary, went before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education Monday. The two education leaders addressed Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the federal program that stands to grant Oklahoma over \$5.5 million in educational assistance funding.

The program, signed by President Clinton in March of 1994, includes \$1,153,998 in first-year planning and technology grants. Oklahoma was approved for these funds in September of 1994. In September of 1995, the state was approved for additional second-year funds totaling \$4,396,613.

First-year funds must be spent no later than September 30, 1996, with members of an appointed advisory panel showing "substantial progress" with those funds by June 30. Second-year funds will depend on the panel's progress. To date, Gov. Frank Keating has yet to make his appointments to this panel, putting those funds in jeopardy, Garrett said.

Keating said in a November 21 letter to Garrett that the council should be limited to 20 members, ten appointed by him and ten appointed by Garrett.

"We may lose the first year funding if we don't make those allocations pretty soon," Garrett said.

Coppedge blamed the governor's failure to make the appointments on concerns surrounding federal requirements.

Garrett said conversations with U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley have assured her there are no further federal requirements.

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