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employee of the office would not be eliminated as well. Bryant and Rep. Jim Reese, R-Deer Creek, assured Paulk that the employee would transfer to the commission.

The measure, and its emergency clause passed with a vote of 68 to 31.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/05/96

HOUSE HEARS WORKPLACE AND EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT

■(GIT) The House Monday heard discussion over HB2374, authored by Rep. Jari Askins, D-Duncan, which creates the Workplace and Employee Protection Act.

"This bill just gives employers more ways to protect their employees," Askins said.

As the bill was up for discussion, Rep. William Graves, R-Oklahoma City, offered an amendment that would specifically include abortion clinic employees to be protected during peaceful protests.

The measure passed with a vote of 98-2.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/04/96

669 BAD FOR OKLAHOMA, BOREN SAYS

■(GIT) With the March 12 vote on State Question [SQ] 669, the measure attempting to roll back property taxes to the 1993 level, less than one week away, attention turned to Oklahoma University President David Boren as he addressed the Senate Committee on Infrastructure and Strategic Planning Thursday. The former U.S. Senator spoke out against the initiative, saying it would be bad not only for OU, but for Oklahoma's economic development.

Boren compared passage of the measure to the oil bust of the mid-eighties, saying it would result in an immediate depletion of nearly half of the state's tax base.

Questioning 669's constitutionality, Boren predicts it will spark a wave of lawsuits aimed at reversing the measure.

Under the measure, property taxes would be lowered only for those who purchased property before 1993. Anyone wishing to purchase or make improvements on property purchased after 1993 would be expected to pay a higher rate.

OU would feel the effects of the measure with the loss of some \$70 to \$90 million in state appropriated dollars, forcing the university to use funds derived from its Reach for Excellence Campaign to bridge the funding gap.

The money is collected from private contributions and used for academic improvements. Passage of 669 would result in a decline in contributions, the idea being that people will find it difficult to donate money for the pursuit of excellence when it is being used "just to keep the doors open," Boren said.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/07/96

HOUSE MEMBERS DEBATE SB995, OUTLOOK FAVORABLE FOR OPTOMETRISTS

■(GIT) Thursday, Rep. Dwayne Steidley, R-Claremore, told fellow members and spectators that SB995 was the anticipated measure they had all been waiting to hear. The bill would restrict the power of certain boards to ask for a declaratory ruling against other boards, except those professions the board governs.

Rep. Don McCorkell, D-Tulsa, asked Steidley if he believed the measure would remove the ability of the State Medical Licensure Board to license individuals practicing surgical procedures. "The bill says boards should not be getting into other boards business," Steidley responded.

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