

(Continued)

tee. The bill creates the Genetic Privacy Nondiscrimination Act, relating to genetic testing. The bill was amended, requiring the State Insurance Commissioner to consult with the State Commissioner of Health in related matters. A committee substitute, the bill also had its title stricken.

HB2003, CS HB2348, CS HB2391, CS HB2574 and HB2648 were all laid over.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/07/96

OKLAHOMA CUTS SIZE OF STATE GOVERNMENT, BUCKS REGIONAL, NATIONAL TRENDS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma has been more successful at cutting state government than any other state in the region over the last five years, according to a national trade publication.

A report in the latest issue of State Policy Reports documented the effectiveness of state government downsizing efforts in the 50 states during a five year period from December 1990 to December 1995.

According to the study, Oklahoma was one of just seven states in the country to cut state government during that period.

Oklahoma was the only state in the region to cut the size of state government. Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, Louisiana all increased government employment.

"I think this sends a great signal to business recruits around the country," said Senator Larry Dickerson, D-Poteau. "It tells them that Oklahoma is running a cost-efficient state that is using its resources wisely."

The Poteau legislator says the decline in state government should also bolster support for a state employee pay raise program he authored this year.

Under SB1128, state employees who receive a performance evaluation score of "meets standards" or higher, would receive a raise of \$1,200. In addition, state nurses and other health care professionals who are significantly below the market salary average would have their pay raised. The estimated cost of the pay program is approximately \$42 million.

SB1128 was approved by the full Senate Wednesday on a 44-0 vote. Its next stop is the State House of Representatives.

FROM: SENATE MEDIA

DATE: 03/06/96

FORMER GOVERNOR HENRY BELLMON REVISITS HOUSE FLOOR

■(GIT) House Lawmakers Tuesday received a surprise visit from an unexpected guest. Former Governor and U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon was invited by Speaker Glen Johnson to briefly address the House.

"I think I am most famous for speeches that put people to sleep, so sit back and enjoy a nap," Bellmon said jokingly. On a serious note however, he continued by saying, "The highlight of my life has been coming before this house, as both a member and as the governor of Oklahoma. I hope you are all proud of your government and the role each of you play."

After his brief address, the former Governor made time to meet with individual members.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/05/96

ELIZABETH DOLE TAKES THE FLOOR

■(GIT) U.S. Senate Majority Leader and presidential candidate Bob Dole, R-Kansas, was represented by his wife Elizabeth, who came to Oklahoma City Wednesday to spread his campaign message before members of the Legislature.

Former cabinet secretary to both the Reagan and Bush administrations, Mrs. Dole was named as one of the ten most admired women by a recent Gallup Poll. She has also served as National

(Continued)