

## RESOLUTION APPROVED REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING DISPUTES

By Marta McCloskey  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) As law enforcement officials and audience members listened, House members adopted HJR1078 today. The measure would authorize a governmental entity to submit a dispute resolution decision to its voters for approval or rejection. However, the decision would not go into effect until a revenue measure to accompany the funding decision was also approved by the people.

The Oklahoma Municipal League wrote a letter on March 4 to the resolution's author, Rep. Larry Ferguson, R-Cleveland, describing their opposition to the measure. In the letter, officials of the association said the bill "substantially changes the current Fire and Police Arbitration Act" and "further erodes the ability of local elected officials to be accountable to their citizens and to conduct the business of local government."

Officials of the association told Ferguson that the Oklahoma Supreme Court is currently trying to establish the constitutionality of certain sections in the Fire and Police Arbitration Act. The association encouraged the Legislature to set aside decisions on the matter until the court could render its decision.

Rep. Abe Deutshendorf, D-Lawton, asked Ferguson why the Legislature was dealing with the issue. "Why don't we wait till the court can make a decision?" Ferguson told Deutshendorf that it could take years before the Supreme Court decided and the issue needs to get off the ground now.

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, told Ferguson that he believed this resolution would take management decisions away from cities. "State Question 640 did the same to the House of Representatives," Ferguson responded. SQ640 requires tax increases to have 75 percent approval of those voting.

The measure was reconsidered and passed with a vote of 54 to 45. It will now go to the Senate for further consideration.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BILL ALLOWING A MERGER RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM HOUSE

By Marta McCloskey  
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■(GIT) A floor substitute for Senate Bill 1162 was addressed in both houses today. The measure provides for the merger of University Center at Tulsa and Rogers State College. House members voted 87 to 13 in favor of the bill. The same consensus was conveyed by the Senate later in the day when members voted 44 to 0.

The floor substitute for the bill would make employees and others with grievances go through administrative channels first before entering the judicial system, explained Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, author of the bill.

Rep. Wayne Cozort, R-Tulsa, tried to amend the bill with a provision that would have allowed the governor to appoint the nine member board. "Would this give Keating nine new appointments," Rep. Chris Hastings, R-Tulsa, questioned Cozort. "No ...," Cozort answered.

However, Steidley said that by the same token, the amendment does not give any assurance that people currently serving on the Rogers board could not be re-appointed. Steidley motioned to table the amendment. Members voted 49 to 41 in favor of tabling the amendment.

Rep. Michael Thornbrugh, R-Tulsa, offered two amendments suggesting that the governor

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