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motion of report progress.

The measure barely passed the Senate last month with a vote of 26 to 19, only one vote over the required 25 votes to pass a measure in the Senate.

The measure is an attempt to address alleged problems with the oil and gas division of the commission. It would assign oil and gas authority to a newly created Energy Administration Board, with members appointed by the governor and legislative leadership.

"I am willing to support moving the agency if they fund it properly," said Corporation Commission Chairman Cody Graves, commenting on the lack of appropriated state dollars to the division. "I just want to make sure this five billion dollar industry will continue to operate efficiently."

On the environmental front, a bill by Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, would allow communities to conduct gas cap integrity tests, an attempt to bring municipal environmental standards up to par with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates. Failure to remain within EPA clean air levels can result in the loss of federal dollars and industry to an area. **HB2346** is awaiting attention from the full Senate.

"This legislation would be the most cost-effective way to keep us within attainment," said Tulsa Chamber Vice President of Governmental Affairs Richard Hedgecock. Cities not in compliance with EPA clean air standards often find it "...difficult to recruit new business or allow existing businesses to expand," he said.

After threats of EPA sanctions five years ago, Tulsa enacted the Ozone Alert Program. When air quality reaches unacceptable levels, initiatives such as reductions in Reid vapor pressure in gasoline and free bus rides are put into place.

"This bill would give us one more tool to stay in attainment," said Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage.

The use of the coolant Freon and other chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is another environmental issue facing lawmakers this year. **HB2155**, by Rep. Randall Erwin, D-Nashoba, would condone the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of CFCs. Designed to reduce the threat to the earth's reported decaying ozone layer, the measure recently passed the Senate Committee on Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs. Members disagreed on the actual threat CFCs posed to the environment.

"This is the biggest hoax ever pulled on the American people and the world," was the recent comment from the bill's Senate author Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta.

Already against federal law, questions were raised as to the bill's affect on CFC distribution and use. "It [the bill] doesn't affect anything," said Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Mark Coleman. "It's a wash, except to maybe mislead the consumer." Coleman said passage of the measure may mislead Oklahoma consumers into believing their use of CFCs is now legal.

He urged Senate lawmakers to "...put something in it to make sure people understand that they would still be in violation of federal law."

The measure now goes before the full Senate, after passing out of committee with a narrow vote of 6 to 5.

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GIT, INC.

P.O. Box 61206

Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

(405) 528-2546, Office (405) 521-9807, Fax

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