

SENATE PASSES \$19.7 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS MEASURE

■(GIT) The Senate Monday passed a measure granting \$19.7 million in supplemental appropriations to various state agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC).

HB2822, by Sens. Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, and Sen. Cal Hobson, D-Lexington, appropriates some \$9.2 million to the DOC for the following areas:

\$5,567,925 for the purpose of funding the Contingency Review Board's authorization of 560 new prison beds. Also included in the figures is \$1,399,873 for additional bed space.

\$285,000 for the Energy Management System at Western State Psychiatric Center in Fort Supply.

\$1,000,000 for the purposes of meeting federal rebate requirements.

\$1,000,000 for the construction of sewage lagoons at the Eddie Warrior and Jess Dunn Correctional Centers in Taft and the Joe Harp Correctional Center in Lexington.

The measure passed with a vote of 46 to 1.

Also addressed by the Senate was **SCR49**, by Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester. The measure authorizes the Commission for Human Services to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with the Pittsburg County Building Authority to provide county office space for the Department of Human Services.

The resolution was adopted.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

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SENATE EDUCATION DEREGULATION BILL RECEIVES APPROVAL AFTER MANY AMENDMENTS, OTHER BILLS ALSO APPROVED

■(GIT) Tuesday, In the House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee for Education, members approved SB1100. However, the approved version contained several amendments. Chairman, Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, told members the bill's co-author, Rep. Calvin Anthony, D-Stillwater, will request the bill to be assigned to the subcommittee for conference work.

SB1100, the education deregulation bill, included several repealers. However, after Rep. James Hager, D-Pawhuska, offered his amendment, the majority of repealed provisions were reinstated. The length of school years and days, workshops for board members, records of attendance, inter-local cooperative agreements, language pertaining to the school activity fund, consolidation and transportation were just some of the provisions reinstated by Hager.

In another sweeping move, Rep. Larry Adair, D-Stillwell, amended the bill to delete the entire section addressing "open" transfers. Adair stood firm when questioned that the amendment could be too rigid.

Begley had several amendments of his own, including two deleting provisions for programs such as advanced placement.

With mid-term, Rep. Jim Reese, R-Deer Creek, suggested an amendment deleting the Senate section and adding Begley's version. The amendment failed. However, Begley did suggest an amendment putting the House language on tracking systems and permanent mid-term solutions into the section.

Rep. Betty Boyd, D-Tulsa, offered an amendment raising the cost of textbooks per student to \$50 from \$25. Her amendment was adopted.

A discussion by members on underage children, weight charges and eligibility requirements for kindergartners developed. An amendment by Hager was adopted to include a .9 weight that would prohibit underage kindergartners from receiving free or reduced school lunches through the Head Start programs. The amendment also kept the cap on eligibility and included provisions of a bill by Rep. Joe Eddins, D-Vinita, that addressed preventing individuals from abusing the programs.

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