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The bill received a do pass vote with the title restored.

SB1302, a shell bill authored by Rep. Larry Adair, D-Stilwell, modifies language relating to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

After striking Section 3 of the measure and restoring its title, the bill received a do pass vote.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/26/96

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PASSES FOUR BILLS

■(GIT) Four House measures passed the Senate Economic Development Committee Thursday, including **HB2893**, by Sen. Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa, which creates the Oklahoma Limited Liability Partnership Act.

The bill was amended, removing all language on page 6, lines 10 through 16.

The measure passed with a vote of 8 to 0.

HB2899, by Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, modifies the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Oklahoma International Trade Development Council.

The measure passed with a vote of 8 to 0.

HB3029, by Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, creates the Targeted Workforce Incentive Act.

The measure was amended, adding clarifying language and a new subsection. The new language places a time limit of three years for which a business is exempt from fees and taxes.

The measure passed with a vote of 8 to 0, after having its enacting clause stricken.

HCR1066, by Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, congratulates Project 1000 and encourages more businesses to participate. The measure is an attempt to recognize the importance of creating quality jobs. The measure passed with a vote of 7 to 0.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/28/96

Education

SENATE EDUCATION MEMBERS VOTE TO APPROVE 14 HOUSE BILLS

■(GIT) Charter schools, student loans, kindergarten eligibility standards, privacy issues, medical insurance, due process, deregulation and juvenile justice education programs were the major issues discussed by members of the Senate Education Committee Monday.

The first bill to receive discussion was **HB2268**, the "Charter Schools Pilot Program Act."

The Senate author of the bill, Gerald Wright, R-Broken Arrow, explained that he did not necessarily agree with allowing 15 Charter Schools per year. He offered to strike the enacting clause of the bill and to continue to work on the measure in conference committee.

Wright assured members that a Charter school would be limited to its district. There was also some talk by members, of limiting the enrollment, even after the school was limited to its district.

Wright endorsed the bill and told members there were suggestions through research that Charter schools taught a higher number of minorities, and involved parents and teachers more often.

Some committee members were skeptical that the boards of school districts would not approve their own funds and students for starting Charter school programs.

Wright suggested an alternative. He said that universities and colleges could become sponsors for developing Charter schools and that an appeals process could be implemented to appease the process. However, he said this would be a key issue in conference.

Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, said he wished every school could have the flexibility of a Charter school.

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