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HB2921, by Easley, adds specific telecommunication companies to be subjected to the Corporation Commission public utilities assessment. The bill received a do pass motion.

HB2972, by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, creates the Oklahoma voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act. The act encourages voluntary remediation of contaminated sites by limiting the liability of property owners. It also fosters reuse of property previously contaminated and establishes a voluntary site remediation program to assist property owners. After having its enacting clause stricken, the measure received a do pass motion.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/28/96

BURNING BAN LIFTED FOR MOST COUNTIES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating announced Thursday the ban on outdoor burning in Oklahoma has been lifted for all but 19 counties. Those northwest Oklahoma counties where the ban remains in effect are: Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Cimarron, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Major, Roger Mills, Texas, Washita, Woods and Woodward.

The statewide ban went into effect on February 22 at a time of extreme fire danger. Fire activity dropped almost immediately following the issuance of the ban and has remained at lower than average levels for most of the state.

Although the return of moisture to the state has been a big help in reducing the number of fires, it doesn't mean the drought is over. Some areas of the state need more than five inches of rain to bring an end to the drought. Fire danger still exists and caution in the use of fire is still needed.

The executive order lifting the burning ban for 58 counties was signed by Lt. Governor Mary Fallin for Governor Keating who is in New York attending an education summit.

FROM: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DATE: 03/28/96

Firearms

DEBATE OVER CONCEALED WEAPONS IN BANKS

■(GIT) Members of the House Rules Committee heard arguments Monday regarding **SB1050**, authored by Rep. Fred Stanley, D-Madill. This measure clarifies language relating to firearms as designated by **SB003**, authored by Sen. Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta, which was signed into law last year.

The new provisions of **SB1050**, deal with the problems of licensing requirements to carry a concealed weapon.

SB1050 would allow a person who has successfully completed an Oklahoma background investigation, as well as a federal investigation, based on the individual's name and social security number, to be issued a license, even though the Federal Bureau of Investigations fingerprint investigation may not have come through.

The measure also specifies the circumstances in which retired law enforcement officers can carry a concealed weapon.

However, controversy sparked as Rep. Don Ross, D-Tulsa, proposed to amend the bill on page 4, sec 3, line 26, to include banks as a location where concealed weapons would be prohibited under Oklahoma statutes. If a person were to fail to comply under this amendment, they would be subject to Oklahoma trespassing laws.

A representative of the Bankers Association was in attendance to explain the reasoning of the amendment. He said because banks are federally insured through F.D.I.C, they come under cur-

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