

(Continued)

**HB2547**, authored by Rep. Mark Seikel, D-Harrah, deletes limitations on expenditures for salaries and wages of county officers.

**HB2704**, authored by Rep. Larry Rice, D-Pryor, modifies language relating to the Oklahoma Municipal Code. Senate staff assigned to the committee reported the legislation listed above received a do pass by members.

Only one measure failed. **HB2545**, also by Seikel, clarified references to county treasurers.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/25/96

## HOUSE VOTES — MARCH 25, 1996

■(GIT) Two measures were passed on the House floor Monday. **SB729**, authored by Rep. Leonard Sullivan, R-Oklahoma City, modifies language relating to licensure of used motor vehicle dealers and manufactured home dealers. It also modifies insurance requirements. The bill was amended by Sullivan for clarification, specifically by language making it a "gender neutral" bill. The measure received a passing vote of 97 to 0, with its title stricken.

**SB1230**, the "Zero Tolerance" bill authored by Rep. Laura Boyd, D-Norman, received a passing vote of 97 to 0. The measure makes it unlawful for a person under the age of twenty-one who has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.02 percent to operate a vehicle.

**SCR47** was withdrawn from the calendar and assigned to the House Corrections Committee.

Session will begin tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/25/96

## OKLAHOMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION URGES KEATING TO DROP LAWSUIT, FEARS FUTURE SCANDALS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Citing scandal involving the Kansas retirement system for its state employees, the Oklahoma Public Employees Association is urging Governor Keating to withdraw a lawsuit asking the courts to give him sole control of the appointments to state pension boards. The appointments are now divided between the Governor and the Legislature.

"It took a financial crisis and scandal in Kansas, before they realized the seriousness of their mistake," said Faye Waits, President of the 11,000 member OPEA.

Waits was referring to a situation where Kansas public pension board appointments used to be made solely by the Governor. During his term, former Kansas Governor John Carlin began urging that the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPRS) invest hundreds of millions of dollars in local business ventures. A serious number of those investments proved to be bad decisions and KPRS has so far had to write off nearly \$140 million in losses. The pension board members who approved those investments were appointed exclusively by Carlin.

Because of the scandal, Kansas changed the way it appointed pension board members, taking the sole appointment power away from the Governor and dividing it with the Legislature and other entities.

Waits noted that Kansas now has an appointment system that is modeled after Oklahoma's.

Waits affirmed that OPEA has filed a "friend of the court" brief opposing Governor Keating's lawsuit.

"This issue is not about Governor Keating's ability to appoint qualified people to pension boards, it's about changing from a successful pension management system to one which will be wide open to future abuses of power and mismanagement," said the OPEA President.

FROM: OKLAHOMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

DATE: 03/25/96