

(Continued)

Finance Committee to kill **House Joint Resolution 1066** without even the courtesy of a complete hearing. The committee took the action on the motion of Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko.

The measure, which was sponsored by Webb and Sen. Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta, would have given Oklahoma voters the option to place in the state constitution a provision that would protect taxpayers from the federal government and the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the amendment, the state government would challenge in the US Supreme Court any attempt by the federal government to place a lien on any homestead to pay for unpaid federal taxes.

The House of Representatives passed the measure on an overwhelming 82-11 vote earlier this month.

Webb, a vocal critic of the legislature's committee process, says the liberal Democrat leadership in both the House and the Senate use their committees to smother good legislation without public knowledge or scrutiny. Republicans often complain Democrat leaders often target GOP-sponsored bills to "die in the dark."

"They should have the courage to let every serious proposal — no matter who brings it — be fully debated," he said. "It is a shame the liberal Democrats do not believe enough in their ideals to let them stand on their own without parliamentary trickery and out-of-date rules of procedure."

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BILL CHANGING ELECTORAL PROCESS PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

■(GIT) Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Agency Oversight passed a measure designed to change the way Oklahoma distributes its electoral votes. **HB2940**, by Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, would require each of the state's eight presidential electoral votes to be won individually, instead of the current "winner takes all" method.

"I think it's going to create a partisan type vote within each district," said Sen. Mark Snyder, R-Edmond, who voted against the measure. "The president has to represent all of the people. The majority of the states elect their governor that way. The states should elect the president the same way."

Though she voted for the bill, Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, said it caused her concern. "It makes me nervous," she said, "to the extent that any time you are faced with substantial legislation you should be concerned."

"Democracy was built on the concept of one person one vote," she said. "Maybe this is the best way that Oklahoma's voting population would be equally represented."

Though she agreed the measure would probably see resistance on the floor, Committee Chairman Sen. Maxine Horner, D-Tulsa, said the bill would promote equity at the polls.

Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said his main concern with the measure is how it will effect the state's election process. The measure would not affect the process, he said. "It really is a political decision," he said.

With the support of committee Democrats and the opposition of Republicans, the measure was passed with a vote of 3 to 2. A vote is expected before the full Senate sometime next week.

Also addressed by the committee was **HB 2381**, by Sen. Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City, which modifies and limits the distribution of the Oklahoma Register. The bill was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

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