

Veterans & Military

HOUSE VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS MEETS

■(GIT) The House Veterans and Military Affairs members met Monday to hear Senate legislation before the committee.

SB720, (committee substitute) authored by Rep. Dale Wells, D-Cushing, creates the Southern Regional Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

The measure received a do pass vote.

SB722, authored by Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, adds the positions of therapeutic recreational specialist, physical therapy assistant, certified occupational therapy assistant and nurse practitioner to a list of unclassified service positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill received a report progress motion.

SB0749, (committee substitute) authored by Rep. Al Sadler, D-Ardmore, requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to competitively bid any contract for the purpose of purchasing Part B Medicare products.

The bill received a do pass vote.

HCR1079, authored by Speaker of the House, Rep. Glen Johnson, D-Okemah, Rep. Darryl Roberts, D-Miami, and Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, memorializes Congress to Support the State Veterans Home Program.

The resolution received a do pass motion.

SJR40, authored by Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, directs the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to study the feasibility of locating a state veterans center in Comanche County.

The resolution received a report progress motion.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

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Wildlife

SENATE WILDLIFE PASSES QUAIL BILL

■(GIT) Monday, members of the Senate Wildlife Committee passed **HB2170**, by Sen. Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta. The popular "quail bill" would allow the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission to set the dates for quail hunting in the state, taking the power away from the Legislature.

With a stricken title, the measure passed with a vote of 7 to 0.

HB2177, by Shurden, allows for written notification to the Department of Wildlife Conservation when a person wishes to hold an animal pelt for longer than ten days. It also states that any antlers or horns that are sold or traded shall be removed so as to not leave any portion of the skull attached. It also puts a size limitation of twelve inches on horn cuttings.

The measure was amended by merging it with **HB2482** which standardizes fur dealer's fees to \$68 for both residents and nonresidents.

HB2177, with its new language, passed with a vote of 6 to 0, but not before Shurden was able to restore its title.

HB2239, by Sen. Jack Bell, D-Idabel, modifies language relating to the issuance of turtle buying and harvesting licenses. The measure passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

HB2292, by Shurden, directs Wildlife Conservation to keep confidential personal information provided with permit and license applications. The measure was passed out of committee with a vote of 6 to 0.

HB2294, by Shurden, authorizes the Wildlife Conservation Commission to sell advertising

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