

## BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$500,000 TO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FAILS

By Marta McCloskey  
Staff Writer

### SB 707 Report Progress

■(GIT) **SB707**, would have appropriated over \$500,000 to the State Board of Education for a school district in Tulsa County, but the measure failed Wednesday in a House Appropriation and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

The bill's author, Rep. Don Weese, R-Broken Arrow, explained that a glass company located in Tulsa was overcharged. According to Weese, the Legislature passed a bill last session to direct the Tulsa County Treasurer to refund the money to the glass company over a five-year period. Weese said he feared the refund would, in turn, hurt the local district. "This bill (SB707), only seeks to keep the school district whole," he said. The bill states that the appropriation is an effort to keep the "preservation of the public peace, health and safety."

"There is no economic provision, it was simply an assessment error on the glass company's part...the taxes were paid in error," Weese explained. "Schools get this excess money, and they were not aware that this was an error."

Chairman of the committee, Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, told Weese he would amend the bill on the floor if it was approved by members. "I would be amiss if we did this and not take care of all the other tax protests around the state," Begley explained that the protests totaled over \$5 million statewide. Weese explained that Tulsa received the least aid (state) of any school district in the state. However, the bill with a vote of 4 to 4 failed, and received a motion for report progress by members.

## HOUSE RETIREMENT LAWS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES TEACHERS, POLICE RETIREMENT

By Heather Myers  
Staff Writer

**SB 903 (CS) Do Pass, Amended**  
**SB 905 Report Progress**  
**SB 941 Do Pass, Title Restored**  
**SB 962 Do Pass**  
**SB 1032 Do Pass, Amended**  
**SB 1228 Do Pass**

■(GIT) Issues of Teacher Retirement Systems, and Police Benefits were the topic of discussion Wednesday in the House Retirement Law Committee. **SB1228**, authored by Rep. Clay Pope, D-Loyal, allows that current contributing members who withdrew their accumulated contributions may amortize the cost of returning the withdrawn contributions or unremitted contributions over a period not to exceed sixty (60) months.

Pope said this measure would allow those teachers who may have left the profession to return without any loss of benefits.

The bill received a do pass vote.

**SB903**, authored by Rep. Larry Roberts, D-Miami, clarifies language pertaining to the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

This shell bill was submitted as a committee substitute with the title restored, and amended on page 11, to add a new section 2.

**SB905**, also authored by Roberts, extends benefits of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to spouses married continuously for the 36 months immediately preceding the member's death.

The bill failed, and received a motion to report progress.

**SB1032**, authored by Rep. Joe Hutchinson, D-Jay, allows any eligible employer of a municipality that is a participating employer in the Oklahoma Public Employees Pension and Retirement System on July 1, 1996, to become a participating municipality of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System on Sept. 1, 1996, only if certified copy of a resolution approved by the governing body of the eligible employer or by any other body or officer authorized by law

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