

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN UNDER THE COMPETITIVE BID SYSTEM

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

**SB 1028 Do Pass,
Amended
SB 929 Do Pass**

■(GIT) Members of the House Tourism and Recreation Committee met today and approved two bills. **SB1028** received an amendment that altered the purpose of the bill. Rep. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay and author of the bill, said a provision in the bill allowing the agency to opt out of the competitive bid system would expedite construction projects, such as the Quartz Mountain construction project. The amendment to the bill, offered by Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, deleted section 1 and 2. Those sections pertained to the competitive bid issue.

The measure also removed contracts entered into for specified purposes by the Department of Education from exclusion and mandated that the Oklahoma Film office remain in Tulsa. Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, tried to amend to bill to move the office back to Oklahoma City, however, the amendment failed.

Committee members also approved **SB929**, authored by Rep. Larry Adair, D-Stilwell. The measure authorizes a pilot entrance fee program at Dripping Springs State Park in Delaware County.

LAWMAKERS PASS SENATE MONEY MEASURES

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

**HB 1555 Do Pass,
Amended
HB 2055 (CS), Do Pass
HB 2059 Do Pass, Title
Struck
HB 2072 Do Pass
HB 2080 Do Pass
HB 2088 (CS), Do Pass,
Title Struck
HB 2090 (CS), Do Pass
HB 2094 (CS), Do Pass,
Title Restored
HB 2115 Do Pass
HB 2147 (CS), Do Pass,
Title Struck
HB 2164 (CS), Do Pass
HB 2179 Do Pass
HB 2188 (CS), Do Pass
HB 2189 (CS), Do Pass
HB 2271 Do Pass
HB 2279 Do Pass, Title
Struck
HB 2323 Do Pass, Title
Struck
HB 2403 (CS), Do Pass**

■(GIT) Members of the full Senate Appropriations Committee passed 47 of its assigned measures Wednesday. The bills are the last that will be passed out of the committee before the Legislature adjourns in May.

HB1555, by Sen. Herb Rozell, D-Tahlequah, relates to state government. The measure authorizes the purchase of nonmedical, assistive technology related items by the State Department of Rehabilitative Services without competitive bid requirements. The measure's effective date was updated and the measure was given a do pass motion.

HB2055, a committee substitute by Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, modifies the determination, computation and procedures relating to the mid-term funding formula for schools.

Williams said the bill would most likely be the measure chosen to address the mid-term funding dilemma, though other pieces of shell legislation are available. The measure was given a do pass motion.

HB2059, by Sen. Ed Long, D-Enid, creates the Oklahoma Tuition Savings Account Act, providing aid and assistance in financing for post-secondary education. It allows residents to contribute a maximum amount of \$5,000 to a tuition savings account, while allowing that amount to be deducted from the contributor's state income tax. With a stricken title, the measure received a do pass motion.

HB2072, by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, expands membership of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) to include park managers and supervisors of the Tourism and Recreation Department. The measure was given a do pass motion.

HB2080, by Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, is a shell bill designed to address the State Aid Formula. The measure had its enacting clause stricken and was given a do pass motion.

HB2088, a committee substitute by Rep. Larry Roberts, D-Miami, modifies language relating to the State and Education Employees Group Insurance Plan. It states that any person wishing to continue with their life insurance policy after retirement shall pay the full cost of that insurance at the rate established by the board. With a stricken title, the measure was given a do pass motion.

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