

## ZERO TOLERANCE BILL PASSES SENATE

By Brandon Beard  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) "This is an effort at prevention," said Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, defending a measure he authored, creating a zero tolerance law for those under the age of 21 who drive while intoxicated. Members passed the measure, **SB1230**, Wednesday.

The bill states that persons under the age of 21 who have "any measurable quantity of alcohol" in their blood stream or breath may have their license suspended or revoked.

In addition, the measure allows for possible installation of ignition interlock devices in vehicles of offenders and requires the State Department of Education to administer drivers education programs in all schools in the state designed to increase awareness of drinking and driving dangers.

Maintaining the Education Department requirements only applied to schools that already have drivers education courses in place, Brown met with quick resistance.

"We can't have pay raises when we continue to mandate things to our schools that cost them more money," said Sen. Jerry Pierce, R-Tulsa.

Sen. Mark Snyder, R-Edmond, echoed

Pierce, calling the measure an unfunded mandate.

"Our kids are already being taught drivers education in school," Snyder said, "and those schools that don't have a drivers education program will be forced to create one, whether they have the money or not."

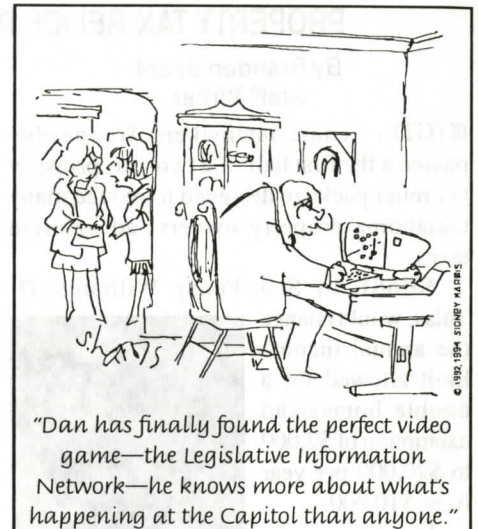
Citing 1991-93 statistics, Sen. Helen Cole, R-Oklahoma City, said the recent study of 507 alcohol related accidents showed 117 of them involved persons under the age of 17.

Brown said the ratio of under aged drunk drivers was two to one.

"This is a serious problem, that deserves serious measures," said Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, commenting that the bill is an attempt to change public attitudes that have traditionally been lax about drinking and driving.

After adopting the measure's second conference committee report with a vote of 40 to 7, members passed the bill with a final vote of 42 to 5.

Brown lodged a motion to reconsider, giving him three legislative days to readdress the measure.



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### Gas Cap, continued from page 3

realize these tests can become a profit center, they're going to be lobbying to increase these regulations."

Tulsa Republican Rep. Fred Perry countered that Tulsa, with what he called a unique situation because of its environment, industry and air quality problems, "is dangerously close to being put on the blacklist to keep it from being able to bring in industry."

Rep. Bill Graves, R-Oklahoma City, contended that wording in the bill could be used to force all state municipalities to accept certain federal mandates. "What's good for Tulsa is not necessarily good for the rest of Oklahoma," he said before launching into an attack on the EPA.

"I don't think the answer to