

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

cial Advocate (CASA) system mandated by **HB2053**, the so-called Ryan Luke child abuse prevention bill. Other appropriations in the bill included \$7,000 for the Child Death Review Board and \$20,900 for a child abuse medical examiner.

In addition to funds already appropriated to the Office of Handicapped Concerns, the bill appropriates \$10,034 to the office for the employee pay plan increase. Similarly, the Human Rights Commission would receive \$34,013 for the pay plan, as well as an additional \$23,000 to fund one full time equivalent.

Continued operating funds of \$26,000 will be appropriated to the Indian Affairs Commission under the terms of the bill, as well as \$7,044 for the state employee pay raise.

—**SHAWN ASHLEY**
05/20/96

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS PASSED

■(GIT) Five appropriations bills received approval on Tuesday in both the House and the Senate, and the House moved forward on three more funding bills, as well.

Receiving approval in both legislative houses were:

✓ **HB1777**, appropriating \$66,267 to the office of the governor and \$14,923 the office of the lieutenant governor;

✓ **HB1787**, appropriating \$631,234 to the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector; \$200,858 to the Office of State Finance; \$1.8 million to the Oklahoma Tax Commission; and \$171,281 to the Office of the State Treasurer;

✓ **HB1800**, appropriating 233,779 to the Commission on Children and Youth; \$10,034 to the Office of Handicapped Concerns; \$57,013 to the Human Rights Commission; and \$33,044 to the Indian Affairs Commission;

✓ **SB806**, appropriating \$508,035 to the House of Representatives; \$1.8 million to the Legislative Service Bureau; and \$338,674 to the Senate.

The four bills were released late Monday afternoon by the General Conference Committee on Appropriations.

Also approved by both houses, following its afternoon release from the appropriations conference committee, was **SB808**, appropriating funds to the Department of Libraries and the Secretary of State.

Included in the Department of Libraries'

appropriations are:

- \$118,576 for the employee pay raise and OPERS increase;
- \$24,000 for a catalog update;
- \$125,000 for electronic databases; and
- \$132,424 for state aid to public libraries.

Some \$51,717 is appropriated under the terms of the bill to the Secretary of State for the employee pay raise and OPERS increase. Additionally, the bill repeals an \$119,340 appropriation included in the general appropriation bill for the Office of Volunteerism. Nearly half of that money — \$50,000 — is being appropriated to the Office of Civil Emergency Management, into which the office will be placed by **HB1783**.

Also approved by the House after their release from conference committee were **HBs 1783, 1792 and 1815**.

HB1783 appropriates funds to the Department of Civil Emergency Management, the State Fire Marshal and the Oklahoma Military Department.

Under the terms of the bill, the Department of Civil Emergency Management will receive the following appropriations in addition to the funds set aside for the agency earlier this year:

- \$10,780 for the employee salary increase and \$1,496 for the OPERS increase;
- \$15,916 for an Emergency Area Coordinator;
- \$8,985 for an Individual Assistance Officer; and
- \$50,000 for the Volunteerism Office transfer.

The bill also appropriates a total of \$227,326 to the State Fire Marshal's Office, including:

- \$32,886 for the employee salary increase and \$3,135 for the OPERS increase;
- \$141,305 to replace the office's carryover funds; and
- \$50,000 for a code enforcement officer.

The Oklahoma Military Department will receive an additional appropriation of \$995,960 under the terms of the bill, including:

- \$127,540 for the employee pay raise and \$10,575 for the OPERS increase;
- \$200,000 for maintenance and repair;
- \$5,000 for operation of the 45th Museum;
- \$599,306 for the department's youth academy; and

- \$53,539 for Starbase.

In addition, the department will receive \$20,000 in reappropriated money from the treasurer's office for hosting the Adjutant General Association of the United States' annual conference. The money for maintenance and repair is being reappropriated from the State Election Board, according to the bill.

Appropriations in **HB1792** include \$96,392 to the Merit Protection Commission and \$527,718 to the Office of Personnel Management.

The bulk of the money appropriated to the Merit Protection Commission — \$81,039 — will be used to restore funds from last fiscal year's reduction. The remainder of the money will go toward the employee pay raise and associated OPERS increase.

In addition to the \$158,772 set aside for the pay and OPERS increase for the Office of Personnel Management workers, the agency will receive \$175,000 for employee compensation reform, \$125,000 for its employee assistance program and \$68,946 for its agency service unit.

HB1815 appropriates nearly \$2.5 to the Department of Central Services, including \$308,708 for the employee pay raise and OPERS increase, \$1.7 million for debt service on 1995 bonds and \$400,000 for replacement of the agency's asbestos removal revolving funds.

The bill also allows the department to spend up to \$548,775 from the Motor Vehicle Liability Account to provide salaries and administrative expenses; \$274,637 from the Risk Management Participation Revolving Fund and \$42,666 from the Oklahoma Motor License Agent Indemnity Fund for salaries and administrative expenses of the Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Exempted from budgetary limits by the bill are expenditures from the Risk Management Revolving Fund.

Those measures now move to the Senate for consideration.

—**SHAWN ASHLEY & BRANDON BEARD**
05/21/96

LAWMAKERS APPROVE MORE APPROPRIATIONS

■(GIT) Four appropriations bills cleared the House and the Senate on Wednesday as lawmakers near the deadline for their consideration of spending bills.

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