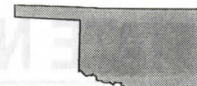


# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tion Department. In reality, lawmakers are proposing a \$21 million increase for ODOT, \$6 million of which has already been delivered to the agency in the general appropriations bill passed earlier this session.

If enacted, the legislative program would represent the largest increase in state funds for the Department of Transportation since 1988.

In his recent statements, McCaleb has also decried the loss of federal highway funds, implying that state legislators should be responsible for offsetting any and all federal cuts handed down by the Republican Congress in Washington.

In their effort to discredit legislative attempts to increase road and highway funding, Governor Keating and Secretary McCaleb are promoting an alternative plan drafted by the executive branch. That proposal would use funding traditionally dedicated to schools, economic development initiatives and law enforcement to bolster the transportation agency's budget.

"We're going to do everything we can to boost our road construction program, but not at the expense of education and law enforcement. That's why the legislative proposal is far superior to the one drafted by the Governor," said Senator Dickerson.

McCaleb has suggested that ODOT's five year construction plan will be disrupted and local projects canceled if the Governor's program is not adopted, but Senator Dickerson says that statement is also untrue.

"The legislative budget proposal will keep everything on track with the five year program. Mr. McCaleb knows that, he's just trying to get his hands on every dollar he can."

"I think it's pretty ironic that Mr. McCaleb launched his misinformation campaign at the same time we were shaking hands with the Governor on a historic budget agreement. Apparently, he's out of the loop on the spirit of bipartisan cooperation at the State Capitol."

—SENATE MEDIA  
05/13/96

## LAWMAKERS APPROVE MIDTERM FUNDING PLAN

■(GIT) State lawmakers on Thursday approved a plan designed to address one of the biggest disputes of the past two legislative sessions: Midterm school funding.

"Basically," Rep. Jack Begley, D-

Goodwell, chairman of the House's General Conference Committee on Appropriations' subcommittee on education, said, "this is a move toward current year funding, where there will no longer be a need for midterm adjustments."

Touted as a permanent solution to the midterm funding dilemma, which attempts to adjust allocations to state schools to accommodate growth in enrollment, **HB2055**, which passed the House and the Senate, includes the following provisions:

- ✓ Reduces from 20 to 10 the number of consecutive days a student can be absent without excuse after which a student will no longer be included in the average daily membership calculation for the school district;

- ✓ Stipulates that beginning with the 1996-97 school year that class size penalties shall not be applied if class size is exceeded beginning after the first nine weeks; if class size limitations are exceeded during the first nine weeks, then class size penalties will apply;

- ✓ Limits the current method of determining State Aid Formula allocations until the 1997-98 school year; provides for the calculation methodology for the 1996-97 supplemental funding to include funds for all student growth, membership greater than 1.5 percent receives full funding and membership growth less than 1.5 percent receives partial funding; also requires the department of education to develop and implement a student identification system specifically for the purpose of reporting enrollment data by school sites and school districts to establish a mobility rate and for the allocation of State Aid and midyear adjustments in funding student growth by July 1, 1998;

- ✓ Revises the State Aid Formula so that beginning with the 1997-8 school year, State Aid will be based on current year chargeable revenue and the highest weighted average daily membership for the first nine weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year; establishes the procedure for determining State Aid; applies the teacher experience and degree calculation to the Foundation Aid component of the State Aid Formula; requires the department of education to retain at least 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for State Aid to pay for midyear adjustments due to increased enrollment; requires the Tax Commission and Commission of the

Land Office to make reports monthly to the Department of Education specifying the apportionment of state dedicated revenues and school land monies;

- ✓ Limits the current method of determining the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculations, the weighted district calculation and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation until the 1997-98 school year;

- ✓ Effective with the 1997-98 school year, establishes the new method for determining the weighted pupil grade level calculation, the weighted pupil category calculation, the weighted district calculation and the weighted teacher experience and degree calculation based on the highest weighted average daily membership for the first nine weeks of the current school year, the preceding school year or the second preceding school year;

- ✓ Expands the purposes for which a school district may request a student's Social Security number to include determining student enrollment, to establish a mobility rate for the allocation of State Aid Formula and midyear adjustments for student growth funding; and authorizes the department of education to develop an alternative accountability system for student identification for those purposes; and

- ✓ Requires the State Department of Education to provide written notification by July 10, 1996, to each school district describing the changes in State Aid funding provided in the bill.

"This is the agreement to the permanent fix," Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, told fellow senators.

While there was no discussion of the measure in the House, questions were raised about language in the bill relating to the establishment of a mobility rate for students. Williams said the concept is to ensure students are only counted once in the funding formula.

"We're trying to make sure we're not paying for a student twice," he said.

The midterm funding proposal passed the House by a vote of 98-0. The bill also passed the Senate by a 44-1 vote.

In addition to approving the midterm funding plan, both houses of the legislature passed bills to make midterm money available for the past two academic years, as well

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