



Capitol Network News

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APPROPRIATIONS BILLS PASSED

By Shawn Ashley & Brandon Beard
Staff Writers

■(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

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OMBUDSMAN EFFORT FAILS AGAIN; ABORTION RULES TACKED ON NEW BILL

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) An effort to protect the state's long-term care ombudsman program failed again on Tuesday when the program was ruled not to be germane to the bill in which it had been included.

Most of the debate over **HB2393**, by Rep. Mark Seikel, D-Harrah, had focused on provisions in the bill dealing with the creation of the Early Identification and Service Support for Children and Families Act, when Rep. Scott Adkins, R-Broken Arrow, asked

whether the inclusion of the ombudsman program in the bill was germane.

After a lengthy consultation with Chief Clerk Larry Warden and a brief question of Adkins, Speaker Pro Tempore Rep. Jim Glover, D-Elgin, ruled that the ombudsman portion of the bill was not germane. That is because House rules require that conference committee additions to bills be consistent with the bill's original subject matter. In this case, that meant any addition would have to deal with children rather than the elderly.

Rep. Carolyn Coleman, R-Moore, then introduced instructions to return the bill to conference committee for further consideration and to strike the bill's first section, which dealt with the creation of the early identification program. Combined with the earlier ruling, Glover noted, the action would leave the House without a workable bill.

Coleman's motion was rejected by a 27-72 vote. Seikel then asked for and received unanimous consent to reject the conference committee report and to return the bill for

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Rep. Carolyn Coleman

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