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NETWORK NEWS

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INSIDE

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Prefiled bill to tax municipalities real-estate

"The cost of the tax would ultimately go directly to the people, which if the legislation is passed, could end up costing taxpayers across the state millions of dollars."

Danny George,
executive director

Oklahoma Municipal League

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First licenses revoked for non-payment of child support

"We will continue to refer cases to the criminal division of the district attorney's offices and to request courts revoke licenses for those parents who fail to support their children."

Paula Woods,
administrator

Child Support Enforcement

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Special session on hold, Governor and legislative leaders say

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Oklahoma State Legislature will not enter into a special session, the governor and legislative leaders said Monday. Originally scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9, the session was intended to free up money from the state's rainy day account to temporarily fund several state agencies that receive federal funding.

"We have been in contact with various sources and have determined the immediate financial crisis facing several state agencies which receive federal funds has been averted," said Gov. Frank Keating. "Therefore there is no need for a special session at this time, but we will continue to monitor the situation very closely."

One state agency, the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission (OESC), has been funded through a targeted continuing resolution from the U.S. Congress. Totally subsidized by federal funds, the commission's unemployment insurance division will continue to function.

"We have been provided with funding through Sept. 30, which is the end of our fiscal year," said OESC Deputy Director Dave Murrie. "If there was to be a special session, it would not apply to the OESC."

Murrie said, while the state's unemployment checks will be secure, the commission's veteran's employment services and the bureau of labor statistics will only be funded through Jan. 26., pending a federal budget agreement.

Also slated for emergency state funding, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, is in line for temporary federal funding as well, though department officials Monday could not definitely confirm those reports.

"We are waiting for our sources in Washington to confirm that fact," said the department's Public Information Officer, Jody Harlan. "We're cautiously optimistic."

Harlan said the department has funds available through a previous continuing resolution, but due to furloughed federal employees, the funds could not be transferred.

"We have enough funds to pay our Jan. 15 payroll and meet our January obligations to our vendors," she said. "We are hopeful of receiving clearance from Washington to be able to draw down more funds."

The department receives 78 percent of its funding from the federal government. It oversees educational and training services for disabled Oklahomans.

Legislative leaders said they are confident the agencies will be able to sustain operations while federal budget negotiations continue. "The Legislature stands ready to convene a special session at any time if it is necessary to keep state employees and Oklahomans eligible to receive federal benefits from being adversely affected by the federal government shutdown," said House Speaker Glen Johnson, D-Okemah. Should the Legislature call itself into special session, it is likely to be only a one day affair.

Prior to the adjournment of the most recent legislative session, members entered into an extraordinary session to address last minute appropriation measures. Constitutionally, when-

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