



Capitol Network News

Today's news from Oklahoma's best government information resource

Daily Edition, Thursday, May 16, 1996

LAWMAKERS APPROVE MIDTERM FUNDING PLAN

By Shawn Ashley & Brandon Beard
Staff Writers

■(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



Rep. Jack Begley

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

See *Midterm*, page 2

LEGISLATURE APPROVES RURAL ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

By Shawn Ashley & Brandon Beard
Staff Writers

■(GIT) A plan to pump \$17 million into rural economic development efforts passed the House and the Senate on Thursday, nine days after legislative leaders and the governor announced their agreement on the proposal.

HB1434, by Reps. Randall Erwin, D-Nashoba, and Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne, and Sen. Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta, establishes the so-called Rural Economic Action Plan, or REAP, a program designed to enhance economic development in communities of less than 7,000 residents. The bill won House approval by a 91-6 vote and passed the Senate by a vote of 40-6.

The funding mechanism for the program, **HB2830**, by Reps. Jim Hamilton, D-Poteau, and Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, and Sens. Cal Hobson, D-Claremore, and Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, also passed the House by a vote of 91-7 and the Senate by a vote of 42-4.

The \$17 million included in the funding bill — \$5 million to the State Treasurer for general economic development; \$4.5 million to the Water Resources Board for water and sewer improvements and \$7.5 million to the Department of Transportation for road and highway improvements — will be divided equally among ten regions within the state as defined by the so-called COGS, or local government organizations.

That means, Erwin noted, small towns within each of the ten areas will divide \$1.7 million among them.

While a part of the legislative-executive budget agreement announced a little more than one week ago, passage of the bills, particularly in the House, followed some contentious debate.



Rep. Randall Erwin

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, led

See *REAP*, page 3

What's Inside

Retirees' Tax Cut Passes House	3
Rainy Day Fund Appropriations Approved	4
Ag Processing Tax Cut Passes House	4
House Rejects Pawn Shop CCR	5
Businesses, City Chamber & Gov Bring American Airlines Jets Back to OKC	5
Vetoed Bills May Live Again in Speed Limit Measure	5
More from the House Floor	6
More from the Senate Floor	7
Commerce Department Welcomes New Trade Representative	7
Senate Vets Committee Confirms Nominations, Adopts Resolutions	7
Nickles Announces for Leadership Position	7

Public Notice - FCC Seeks Comment	8
Bill Activity:	
House Bills at a Glance	9
Senate Bills at a Glance	9
House Measures	10
Senate Measures	11
Executive Action - Pending	12
Executive Action - Signed	13
Executive Action - Veto	18
Secretary of State	19
Active Conference Committee Reports	21
Active Conference Committee Members	25
Statutory Citation Cross Reference	26
Bill Subject Cross Reference	27
Calendar	28