

# 1996 Interim Studies - House

## **Interim Study 96H-01, Ad Valorem Tax Reform, Don Weese**

Intent of this study is to look at possible means for providing for both constitutional and statutory repeal of ad valorem taxes not related to any bonded indebtedness and replacing any lost revenue through another source (i.e. an income tax surcharge or local sales tax); Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-02, Workers Comp Insurance, Terry Matlock**

Classification by hazard and job description and title; Insurance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-03, Zoning Ordinances — Manufactured Homes, Jerry W. Hefner**

Prohibiting cities, counties, and political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing zoning ordinances excluding mobile homes; County and Municipal Government Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-04, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance, Shelby Satterfield**

I would like to request a Joint Interim Study in conjunction with Sen. Lewis Long on the issue of motor vehicle registration avoidance. Several categories of avoidance can be identified: 1. A vehicle owner may register in a neighboring state where registration fees are lower; 2. A person may simply overlook their deadline and thus be "in arrears" rather than deliberately avoiding registration; 3. A vehicle owner may constitute the always present "hard core" avoider who, for one or more reasons, avoids deliberately and indefinitely. For whatever reason, this person knowingly accepts the risks associated with this avoidance. With an average passenger vehicle registration fee approaching \$100, Oklahoma's relatively high yearly fee means that even a small percentage of avoiding motorists creates a severe economic loss. Since Oklahoma has not conducted a complete reissuance since 1980, some estimate vehicle registration evasion to be anywhere from 5% to 10%. Using these figures, Oklahoma could be losing upwards of \$40 million annually; House Committee on Public Safety, in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-05, Economics of Oklahoma Agriculture, M.C. Leist**

Agriculture in Oklahoma in the mid 1990s has reached a negative economic condition unequaled within the last fifty years. Unseasonable freezes, extreme drought coupled with extremely low cattle prices have caused many facets of agriculture to experience this financial crisis. In the past the State House of Representatives has been responsive to the needs of agriculture primarily in the areas of property rights, tax exemptions, and favorable operating latitudes. The Ag Link Program, Beginning Farmer Program and the Ag Mediation Program are precursors of the increased state government direct assistance to the ag sector. Value added has become important as evidenced by the state commitment to the Food Processing Center, Made in Oklahoma program and cooperative development program. Recent developments in ag necessitate an analysis of the direct economics of agriculture. This analysis will con-

sist of three basic factors: 1. The current conditions of agricultural support (by topical area); 2. Change factors in ag both internal and external; and 3. State policy responses; Agriculture Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-06, Weather Modification, Elmer L. Maddux**

To study, as an on-going program, cloud reseeded and hail suppression. Research the possibility of matching funds from county government; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-07, Transfer of Forestry Division, Mike Mass**

Study the feasibility of transferring the Forestry Division from the State Department of Agriculture; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-08, Rural Water Training, Mike Mass**

Monitor and evaluate rural water system program administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; House Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-09, International Bluegrass Festival, Joe J. Hutchison**

Meet with Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, TNN, Gaylord Productions, Lazy E and meetings with private corporations as sponsorship. Attend International Bluegrass Music Awards and workshops in Owensboro, Ky., September 25, 1996, through September 28, 1996; Tourism and Recreation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-10, Disability Fishing License, James H. Dunegan**

Interim study to study fish license, specifically in the disability category; Wildlife Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-11, Sex Offender Registration, Jack Bonny**

Examine recent federal legislation regarding sex offender registration and the impact of community notification requirements on current state law; Criminal Justice Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-12, Business Issues, Jack Bonny**

The purpose of the study proposal is to review and assess the economic impact that research and development, telecommunications and technological advancements have on Oklahoma businesses and how this type of activity can be enhanced; Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-13, Worker's Comp, Bill Settle**

Specific revisions regarding injuries; policies of the State Insurance Fund; and review the nominating process of appointing workers' comp judges; Judiciary Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-14, Oklahoma Indigent Defense Fund, Dwayne Steidley and Jerry L. Smith**

Comprehensive joint study of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System which includes study of the funding of the system; Assigned to the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-15, Tax Incremental Financing, Ray Vaughn**

Tax incremental financing techniques for use in economic development, tourism and recreation projects; Economic Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-16, ODOT Infrastructure Bank, Ray Vaughn**

Use of funds deposited in the Infrastructure Bank of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-17, Public Utility Property Taxes, Jack Begley**

Defining public utility central and local assessment for public utility property taxation; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

## **Interim Study 96H-18, Oklahoma Wineries and Vineyards, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Oklahoma laws as they relate to vineyards and small in-state wineries; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-19, Medicaid and Welfare Reform, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Federal reform of Medicaid and Welfare programs; Human Services Committee and the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-20, Revenue and Taxation, Dan Webb**

Review and formulate a more equitable state tax system for state taxes, including a review of a flat or single tax rate; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-21, Administrative Rules, Charles Gray and Dan Webb**

To review and study the administrative rule making process and procedure of any state agency, board or commission; House Committee on Administrative Rule Review.

## **Interim Study 96H-22, DOC and Department of Mental Health, Joe Eddins**

A comprehensive study of the Department of Corrections and Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services emphasizing the cost effectiveness of treatment as it pertains to those individuals who are under the care and custody of the Department of Corrections. The study will address two areas of concern: the cost effectiveness of treatment of those individuals who are confined in correctional facilities as incarcerated felons and those individuals who are under the direct supervision of the Department of Corrections in the community that are supervised by Probation and