



Capitol Network News

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Supplement

100-PLUS LAWSTAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 1

■(GIT) Those who deal with the results of the legislature's work probably either dread or embrace Nov. 1, the day the bulk of the legislation passed during the second session of the 45th Legislature takes effect.

Well over 100 new laws go into effect today, some with dramatic effects and others with less significant implications. The new laws run the gambit, touching almost every issue addressed by the legislature during the legislative session. In the cases of the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, parents of teens, attorneys and insurance companies, industrial and business leaders, responsibilities, obligations and opportunities. In other cases,

such as entomologists and trivia buffs, the day is equally important, although seemingly not nearly as significant for some others.

One bill that won't be taking effect, however, is HB2796, which sets standards for filings in the state's county clerks offices. A group of 16 plaintiffs, including banks, real estate groups, abstract companies and two business associations, won a temporary injunction Thursday blocking the law's implementation.

A Dec. 5 hearing on a temporary injunction was set by Oklahoma County District Judge John Amick. The judge's decision then could delay the law's implementation until after the legislature has a chance to take an-

other look at the law during the next legislative session.

The pages that follow contain analyses of some of the most important legislation taking effect today. In addition, *Legislative Information Network/Capitol Network News* has compiled a complete list of all the measures going into effect today.

That information is followed by a statutory citations cross reference, allowing easy identification of which existing state laws are affected by those measures taking effect today. Finally, a bill subject cross reference lists the bills effective today by the subject areas they envelope.

75 HOUSE BILLSTAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 1

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) As this year's general election nears and attention focuses on who will serve in the 46th Legislature, much of the work of the House of Representatives comes to fruition as 75 bills take effect Nov. 1.

The areas addressed by the new laws cover a wide area, including everything from the establishment of an official state butterfly — the Black Swallowtail — to new procedures for handling child abuse cases and investigations.

Following is an analysis of some of the more important bills to take effect Nov. 1.

HB2053: Tragedies Provide Basis for Reform

It may be one of the most well known pieces of legislation to pass since HB1017. Known as the Ryan Luke Bill, HB2053 is called "a direct response to the deaths of Shane Coffman and Ryan Luke" by its primary author, Rep. Laura Boyd, D-Norman.

"Their legacy to Oklahoma's children," said Boyd of the two little boys who lost their lives to child abuse, "is that we responded and took action on those things we knew to be flawed."

Ryan Luke died in March 1995, after an alleged beating that left his brain irreversibly damaged. Ryan's mother, Wendy Luke, pleaded guilty to first degree manslaughter in her son's death, admitting to a judge that she failed to promptly seek medical atten-

tion for her dying child. She has since petitioned a Pittsburg County court to withdraw that plea.

Larry Tannehill, Wendy Luke's boyfriend at the time of her son's death, was acquitted of a first degree murder charge in the two-year-old's death earlier this year. The toddler's grandfather, Don Luke, faces a trial on a charge of second degree manslaughter in the death.

Shane Coffman's body was found in February 1996, stuffed inside a freezer outside a trailer once occupied by his mother, her boyfriend and Shane's brothers and sisters. The boy's mother and her boyfriend will face first degree murder charges in the child's death in Cleveland County.

The cases bore one disturbing similarity: Both children and their families had been the subject of Department of Human Ser-

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