

Capitol Network News

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

Weekly Edition, Wednesday, November 27, 1996

LANGUAGE PROPOSAL COULD FACE UPHILL FIGHT

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Proponents of making English the state's official language will face an uphill battle in Oklahoma if such a measure is pursued, a review of recent similar legislation indicates.

Two bills considered during the 45th Legislature — HBs 1385 and 2054 — proposed recognizing English as the common language of the state and would have required the publication of most public documents in English, although certain exceptions were provided for in each measure. Both bills suffered similar fates, falling dormant in the Senate's Rules Committee after winning House approval. Other legislation, some of which became law, requires that certain services be offered in languages other than English.

HB1385, by then-Rep. James Dunlap, R-Bartlesville, and Sen. Carol Martin, R-Comanche, was last heard from in March, 1995, when it was referred to the Senate committee after passing the House on an 83 to 14 vote.

The measure would have recognized English as the "common," rather than official, language of the state, but would have made English "the language of official public documents and records and official public meetings."

The proposed measure excluded from its provisions:

- Instruction in foreign language courses;
- Instruction designed to aid students with limited English proficiency;

- Interference with the needs of the judicial system;

- Instances "when the public safety, health or emergency services require the use of other languages," provided that the authorization for the use of languages other than English in printed materials for general distribution was approved in an open public meeting by the governing board or authority of the relevant government entity; and

- Testimony from experts, witnesses or speakers who require the use of a language other than English, provided that for purposes of deliberation, decision making and record keeping that the testimony or commentary be translated into English.

The story was the same for HB2054, which was introduced during the second session of the 45th Legislature and was identical to its first session predecessor. After passing the House 95 to 2, the bill was passed to the Senate, where it died in the Rules Committee.

Ironically, a bill which passed both legislative houses and was signed by the governor in 1995 moves the state in the opposite

direction, at least where Department of Human Services benefits are concerned.

The bill, HB1673, was one of several measures designed to bring the state into line with anticipated changes in welfare benefits. By Rep. Opio Toure, D-Oklahoma City, and Sen. Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa, the bill established certain requirements for obtaining benefits from the Department of Human Services.

In a section dealing with the so-called "personal responsibility agreements," which is signed by the benefits recipient, the bill indicates that the agreement will be written in English, Spanish or other language "according to the applicant's or recipient's needs."

According to the department, the agreements have been made available in and signed in one other language — Spanish — since the bill took effect last year.

Practices such as that are consistent with others already in place in Oklahoma. Drivers' license exams, for example, are offered in six different languages, Mauro E. Mujica, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of U.S. English, Inc., told a Senate interim study committee on Monday. Addi-

See *Language Proposal*, page 2

KEATING WILL JOIN SCOTT IN SEEKING SCHOOL LAND PURCHASE RESTRICTIONS

From The Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating said Tuesday he will join State Auditor and Inspector Clifton Scott in any effort to repeal rules that allow officials of the School Land Commission to bid on land controlled by the agency.

"The proposed transaction involving Secretary Rob Johnson was clearly one that raised some very valid questions," the Governor said. "I have spoken with Mr. Johnson and I agree with his decision to withdraw his bid and cancel the transaction. I also agree with Clifton Scott and I will support any effort to repeal rules that allow officials

of the Commission to be involved in the purchase of trust lands."

Keating said he was not present at the Dec. 5, 1995 meeting of the Commission where the rule was adopted. Neither was Scott.

"It is clear that officials who administer the management, appraisal and sale of public lands should not be involved in private transactions involving those same pieces of property," the Governor said. "I hope the Commission will address this issue soon, and I intend to join with the Auditor and Inspector in assuring that such questions are not raised again."

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GOVERNOR OPPOSES SALT REMOVAL PROJECT

From Oklahoma Wildlife Dept.

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) In a recent letter to the Council on Environmental Quality in Washington, D.C., Governor Frank Keating voiced his opposition to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan to remove the naturally-occurring salt from the Red River above Lake Texoma.

Called the Red River Chloride Control Project, the plan would remove the salt from the Red River system to provide drinking water for north Texas and water for irrigation, also mostly in Texas.

According to fish and wildlife biologists and local tourism officials, the project could not only damage Lake Texoma's \$21 million-a-year striped bass and other recreational angling fisheries, but it also could threaten the natural features of the Red River ecosystem.

"After discussion with many groups, individuals, and state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I continue to be concerned with the possible environmental and economic impacts to the State of Oklahoma," Keating said. "Further, I am worried this huge investment of tax dollars far outweighs the perceived benefits to either Oklahoma, Texas or the nation. These factors, coupled with the fact that there is little, if any, Oklahoma support, lead me to oppose this project."

Public meetings held in both Oklahoma and Texas this fall also revealed very little support for the Red River Chloride Control Project. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and numerous sportsmen's groups

in both states have lined up in opposition to the project.

"Governor Keating's opposition to this project is a significant step toward halting the project," said Barry Bolton, assistant chief of fisheries in charge of management for the Wildlife Department. "If similar opposition comes from Governor Bush in Texas, I think it would almost assuredly signal the end of the Red River Chloride Control Project."

The Corps' plan calls for using brine lakes, low-water dams and a variety of other methods to prevent salt from entering the Red River system.

By lowering the river's salt content, its waters could be more easily used for a variety of agricultural, municipal and industrial uses. Those in opposition, however, say the project's \$260 to \$300 million price tag is far too high, given the possible environmental impacts. Additionally, newer, and more efficient technologies now exist which opponents say make the project obsolete.

"Thousands of acres of wildlife habitat also could be destroyed to create brine lakes, not to mention the potential degradation of the Red River and Lake Texoma," Bolton said.

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tionally, existing laws which require county commissioners to publish a complete report of all its official proceedings at regular and special meetings allows that publication to occur "in any [language] other than the English language whenever it shall deem it necessary for the better information of the inhabitants."

Proponents of the use of English as an official language in government documents scored one victory during the 45th Legislature with the passage of HB2796. By Rep. Jari Askins, D-Duncan, and Sen. Jerry Smith, R-Tulsa, the measure, which was signed by the governor, sets standards for the filing of certain papers with country clerks, including that the specific documents be filed in English.

That victory, however, has been short lived. The Nov. 1 implementation of the bill was delayed when an Oklahoma County judge issued a restraining order after a number of business associations raised questions about some of the bill's provisions. A hearing on the matter is set for December.

"Curiosity is a lust of the mind."

Thomas Hobbes

KEATING'S POINT OF COMPARISON BEHIND NATION

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) It's a comparison Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating likes to make — Oklahoma versus Texas.

The contest, he says, is in the pockets of the two adjacent states' residents — Texans have more and Oklahomans have less.

According to a recently published report, Keating is correct, but the differences between the two states are not as great as they sometimes sound.

Texas' per capita income is approximately 90 percent of the national average, according to the chairman of the University of North Texas' economic development center, Bernard Weinstein. Oklahoma's, meanwhile, comes in at roughly 80 percent of the national average, according to the Oklahoma Economic Forecast Midyear Review released in September, a full 10 points lower than Texas'.

Those figures, however, put both states, according to Weinstein and Oklahoma State University, which prepared the report on Oklahoma's economy, about where they were in the 1950s.

The similarities don't end with per capita income. Most of Texas' higher paying jobs, like in Oklahoma, can be found in its larger metropolitan areas, such as Dallas and Houston, while the per capita income in the state's rural areas is consistently lower, sometimes dramatically. And while Texas has seen better than one-half million jobs created in the past two years, the bulk of those jobs, like in Oklahoma, have fallen at the lower end of the pay scale, studies indicate.

Findings such as those have led Texas Governor George Bush, a man Keating describes as a friend, to address some of the same public policy issues and solutions as Oklahoma. Bush announced earlier this month, for example, a plan to cut state property taxes by \$1 billion statewide. The plan has drawn criticism from some Democratic lawmakers there who say that the Republican governor has yet to fully outline his plan and that future state revenues may not justify such a dramatic cut.

Property tax reform as an economic improvement and development tool was on the minds of Oklahomans for years, culminating with their passage of three state questions earlier this month that place greater controls and limits on property taxes, particularly their increases.

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Capitol Network News

A division of

GIT, Inc.

P.O. Box 61206

Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

Office (405) 528-2546

Fax (405) 521-9807

Net: gitinc@ionet.net

Web: <http://www.exoweb.com/git>

Darwin P. Maxey, Publisher

Mary Millen, Editor

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CONTINENTAL GRAIN AND AFFILIATE SETTLE MAJOR U.S. FRAUD SUIT FOR \$35 MILLION

From U.S. Dept. of Justice

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday that Arab FinaGrain Agri-Business Trading, Ltd. [ARAB FINAGRAIN], a foreign-based affiliate of Continental Grain Company [Continental] in New York, has pled guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to a criminal information charging ARAB FINAGRAIN with conspiring to defraud the USDA in connection with sales of agricultural products to Iraq.

The plea agreement requires ARAB FINAGRAIN to pay a \$10 million criminal fine. In a related civil settlement, Continental agreed to pay the United States an additional \$25 million to resolve the government's civil claims against Continental and ARAB FINAGRAIN in connection with this investigation.

The criminal information charges that ARAB FINAGRAIN fraudulently participated — through Continental — in the USDA's Export Credit Guarantee Programs, known as the GSM Programs. Through the GSM programs, which are funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC], the USDA provides payment guarantees to exporters which sell their goods on credit to importers in designated countries. The USDA established the GSM program to expand foreign markets for domestic agricultural goods by reducing the risk of doing business with financial institutions in developing countries. The criminal information charges that, from 1987 through 1990, ARAB FINAGRAIN caused Continental to register for, and obtain, GSM export credit guarantees for sales of agricultural goods —

specifically protein concentrate and soybean meal — to Iraqi government agencies. The criminal information charges that ARAB FINAGRAIN, a company organized under laws of the United Kingdom, with offices in Geneva, Switzerland, and its joint venture partner, used Continental to register these sales for the GSM guarantees because ARAB FINAGRAIN — which had no office or presence in the United States — was not eligible to participate in the federally-backed program.

Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Division, Frank W. Hunger stated that, "this settlement — one of the largest single recoveries in the history of the USDA — represents the Justice Department's commitment to ferreting out fraud even in the most complex cases involving international commercial transactions guaranteed by the United States."

USDA Inspector General Roger C. Viadero said that the criminal plea and civil settlement bring to a successful conclusion a major investigation by personnel from his

office and attorneys of the Department of Justice — "this case exemplifies the excellent working relationship we have with the Justice Department in our mutual efforts to pursue difficult and sophisticated fraud schemes." Viadero also announced that ARAB FINAGRAIN, and certain of its affiliated companies, had voluntarily agreed to no longer participate, directly or indirectly, in any U.S. Government funded, guaranteed, or sponsored programs or transactions.

This case was investigated by the USDA's Office of Inspector General Special Agents Arthur J. Wade and Marla M. Fricke and U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Fraud Section Trial Attorneys Nicole M. Healy and Clifford I. Rones, as well as Civil Division, Fraud Section, Senior Trial Counsel Judith Rabinowitz and Trial Attorney Laurie A. Oberembt. For further information, contact John Russell, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 514-2007 and Paula Hayes, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General at (202) 720-6979.

USDA TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON RETAIL MEAT PRICE REPORTING

From U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) The Agriculture Department will hold a public workshop on reporting of retail meat prices and farm-to-retail price spreads, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced Monday. The workshop will take place Dec. 18, 1996, in Kansas City, MO.

"Many questions have been raised about retail meat price data in light of changing consumer preferences and market structures," Glickman said. "We are inviting representatives of producers, the livestock marketing industry, the retail sector, and universities to review USDA's current retail meat price series, and price spread information, and suggest improvements."

The workshop, sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), was first proposed by Glickman in a July 31 announcement of USDA actions to improve information on livestock markets.

The workshop will feature presentations on current retail price reporting procedures by USDA and other federal government analysts and reactions from an invited panel of representatives knowledgeable about retail price reporting issues. The public is invited to attend the workshop, present oral statements, and submit written comments. Due to time constraints, speakers will be sched-

uled on a first come, first served basis and oral statements will be limited to five minutes each.

To request speaking time, more information on the workshop or assistance in sign interpretation, contact Lawrence Duewer at (202) 501-8522 voice, (202) 219-2462, TDD, (202) 219-0356, fax, or lduewer@econ.ag.gov. Written comments should be sent to Kitty Smith, Director, Commercial Agriculture Division, Economic Research Service, USDA, 1301 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005-4788.

The workshop will be held 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 18 at the Kansas City Airport Hilton Hotel, 8801 N.W. 112th Street, P.O. Box 20366, Kansas City, MO, 64195. The meeting will be open to the public. To make room reservations, call the hotel at (816) 891-8900 or 1-800-525-6322. A block of rooms for workshop participants will be held until December 4.

Background information on retail meat prices and price spreads will be posted on the ERS home page at <http://www.econ.ag.gov>. on the meat prices and price spreads briefing room.

"Flirtation — attention without intention."

Max O'Neil

Comparison, cont. from page 2

Keating has been criticized for comparing Oklahoma's economy to that of other states, such as Texas, and for his comments in general on the state of the Oklahoma economy. The governor defends his statements by saying he is Oklahoma's biggest cheerleader outside the state, but its coach when he's at home.

"Outside the state," he explained in a September press conference, "I hammer on what we do have. I think I'm a very good cheerleader for Oklahoma. But inside the state, I act like the coach, and I think we have to sit down and think of ways we can become richer."

JASON PROJECT VIII ANNOUNCED FOR 1996-7 SCHOOL YEAR

From The Jason Foundation

■(ARLINGTON, VA) This year, students around the world will explore some real hot spots — geothermal hot spots, that is — as Yellowstone and Iceland are the expedition destinations for JASON Project VIII: Journey from the Center of the Earth.

Complete with gushing geysers, frozen glaciers, boiling mudpots and volcanic activity, the year-long scientific learning adventure culminates with live, interactive broadcasts from the Yellowstone and Iceland expedition sites, April 28 - May 9, 1997.

The research locations, Yellowstone and Iceland, were chosen because both are situated directly above geothermal "hot spots" — areas in the earth's upper mantle where rocks from the lower mantle move upward and melt, forming magma.

Students, teachers and scientists will join modern-day explorer Dr. Robert Ballard to investigate the geology, biology, and glaciology of Yellowstone and Iceland. Although these disciplines seem diverse, they all have one theme in common — movement. The students and scientists will conduct field studies that relate to movement in geology (cataclysmic, tectonic and geothermal movement), biology (human and animal migration and movement), and glaciology (glacier movement and how it affects climate). Telepresence

For two weeks, advanced "you-are-there" telecommunications technologies called telepresence transport millions of students to the expedition research sites in Yellowstone and Iceland live via satellite. Telepresence allows students at Primary Interactive Network Sites (PINS) throughout the United States, Bermuda, the United

Kingdom and Mexico not only to watch the expedition live, but also interact with scientists and control live-feed video cameras. Video, audio and data signals originate from the simultaneous live broadcasts in Yellowstone and Iceland. The broadcasts are then downlinked to the primary sites, all in less than half a second.

Curriculum and Professional Development

An award-winning interdisciplinary curriculum is distributed to all JASON Project-participating teachers early in the school year to ensure students are well-versed in the scientific principles they'll encounter during the live broadcasts. The JASON Foundation offers teachers comprehensive professional development programs and an annual Educators' Conference to demonstrate the investigations in the JASON curriculum.

Local Field Investigations

While the two main expedition sites for this year's project are Yellowstone and Iceland, the most important research location is right in students' backyards, literally. As part of the curriculum, students are encouraged to perform a variety of local field investigations using the same scientific methods employed by scientists at the expedition sites. As the students collect data, open-ended research questions in the curriculum prompt students to develop the critical thinking skills essential to forming hypotheses that makes the data meaningful.

JASON Online Systems

An essential part of any scientific research is collaboration, and JASON Online Systems provides an ideal forum. A vital, dynamic component of the project, JASON Online Systems let students and teachers access news and discussion groups to com-

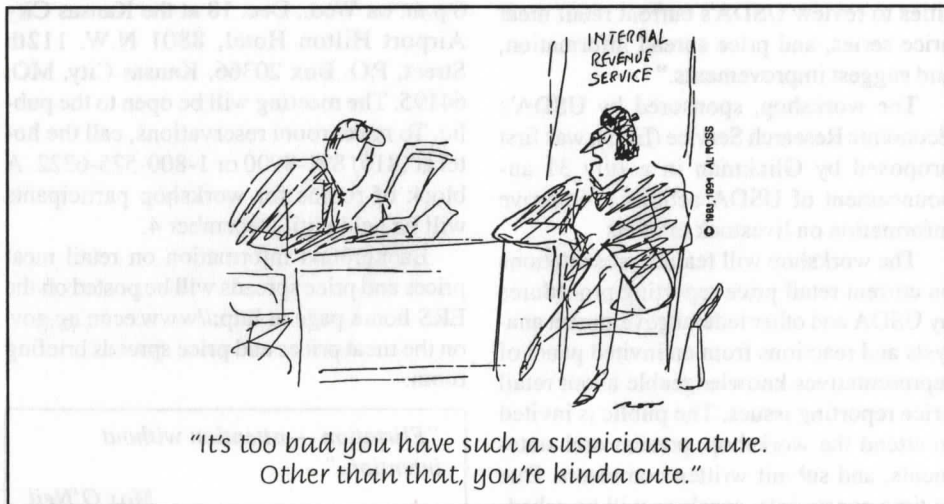
municate with peers. JASON Online Systems are also an integral part of the data-gathering and sharing exercises of the Journey from the Center of the Earth curriculum. Students are encouraged to post results of their local field investigations online, to initiate electronic collaborations with students around the world, and to compare and contrast research findings to help them develop hypotheses.

Another aspect of JASON Online Systems is the highly commended JASON Project Homepage (<http://www.jasonproject.org>) which provides graphics, video and sound clips, and interactive exercises on current and past projects.

Journey from the Center of the Earth is the eighth annual JASON Project. In past JASON Projects, students discovered ancient Roman trading ships on the Mediterranean Sea floor; explored warships from the War of 1812 at the bottom of Lake Ontario; followed Charles Darwin's steps in the Galapagos Islands; observed migrating whales and the phenomenon of chemosynthesis in the Sea of Cortez off Mexico's Baja Peninsula; excavated ancient Mayan cities and explored the rain forests and coral reefs of Belize; visited the world's most active volcano, Hawaii's Mt. Kilauea; and, lived in an underwater habitat and performed research from a nuclear submarine off the coast of Key Largo, Florida.

Dr. Ballard started the JASON Project in 1989 after he received thousands of letters from students asking him about his discovery of the wreckage of the R.M.S. Titanic. The annual JASON Project is administered by the JASON Foundation for Education whose mission is to excite and engage students in science and technology, and to motivate and provide professional development for their teachers. Competitively selected student and teacher "Argonauts" join Dr. Ballard and the team of JASON Project scientists on each expedition.

The JASON Foundation for Education is supported by a unique alliance of public, private and non-profit organizations that are committed to the improvement of science and technological education for all students. JASON Foundation for Education's National Corporate sponsors include EDS Corporation, a founding sponsor and technology provider, the National Geographic Society, Bechtel, Sprint, SUN Microsystems, Eastman Kodak Company, ICI Worldwide and the National Science Center Foundation.



STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY

BUSINESS & LABOR

SENATORS CALL FOR WORK COMP RATE CUT

■(GIT) The state lawmaker who will carry the results of a special commission looking at Oklahoma's workers' compensation system next year and other legislators joined together Monday to call on the State Board of Property and Casualty Rates to cut workers' compensation rates again this year.

Citing new statistics he said showed the positive impact of recent reforms, Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton, said, "The numbers we've seen indicate the reforms of recent years are working and workers' compensation costs are coming down. We want the board to pass the savings on to Oklahoma business owners, and the quicker, the better."

Maddox, who has agreed to carry the workers' comp reform bill based on the recommendations of Lt. Governor Mary Fallin's Commission on Workers' Compensation before the 46th Legislature, was joined in the call by senators Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore and President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Trish Weedn, D-Purcell; Lewis Long, D-Glenpool; Penny Williams, D-Tulsa; Bruce Price, D-Chickasha; Brad Henry, D-Shawnee; Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood; Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta; Robert Kerr, D-Altus; Gilmer Capps, D-Snyder; Larry Dickerson, D-Poteau; J. Barry Harrison, D-Fairfax; Sam Helton, D-Lawton; and Angela Monson, D-Tulsa.

The legislators cited a new Senate staff analysis, entitled "Workers' Compensation in Oklahoma: Recent Reforms and Results," which reviewed the impact of 30 workers' compensation reforms approved by the legislature in the last four years. Among the findings:

- Citing legislative reforms earlier this year, an independent actuary recommended a workers' comp rate reduction of as high as 14 percent, but only a 4.5 percent reduction was implemented by the State Board of Property and Casualty Rates;

- Workers' comp filings have decreased eight percent since a reform package, which included stiffer fraud penalties, workplace safety initiatives and so-called "dueling doctor" reforms, was passed in a 1994 special session;

- Fraud charges have increased by 37 percent in the last year with 92 percent of the cases ending in guilty pleas;

- The use of the independent medical examiner has increased by 42 percent from 1994; and

- More than 40,000 workers are currently enrolled in workplace medical plans designed to contain workers' comp premium costs.

"I think we've got a pretty strong arsenal of evidence to argue for another cut in workers' comp rates," said Maddox. "Based on the numbers, it's pretty clear that businesses are being charged too much and deserve some relief."

"We are definitely on the right track, but we must not let up," Maddox added. "Between 1990 and 1992, workers' compensation premiums increased by 62 percent in the private sector. Even with the enactment of the reforms of the last several years, we have a long way to go before rates are where we want them to be."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

SENATE RELEASES WORKERS' COMP REVIEW

■(GIT) It is one of the most talked about systems in state government, and according to a Senate staff study released this week, Oklahoma's workers' compensation system is improving, thanks, in part, to legislative reforms implemented over the past four years.

The study, entitled 'Workers' Compensation in Oklahoma: Recent Reforms and Results,' has already won the praise of a handful of Democratic senators, including Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton. Maddox recently announced that he will carry the bill that proposes the next wave of changes in the workers' compensation system. That bill will be the result of the recommendations from Lt. Governor Mary Fallin's Commission on Workers' Compensation, which is currently in the process of preparing its final proposals and turning them into legislative language.

The Senate study looks specifically at

reforms in the workers' compensation system implemented since 1992 and identifies efforts targeting six areas:

- Reducing health care costs through the introduction of managed care;
- Requiring workplace safety programs;
- Creating a more politically independent judiciary;
- Strengthening fraud investigation and prosecution;
- Increased use of independent medical examiners; and
- Making benefit payments more fair for employers and employees.

The study concludes that the reform efforts "have improved cost containment, workplace safety and lowered employers' premiums in recent years." Significant results identified by the study include:

- The reduction of costs according to the Oklahoma Insurance Department Actuary, which was reflected in data presented to the Board of Property and Casualty Rates in January that indicated enough savings have achieved to warrant up to a 14 percent reduction in costs with additional savings expected to materialize in coming years; the board settled for a 4.5 percent cut in workers' compensation costs, the largest reduction in a number of years;

- Stiffer fraud penalties, workplace safety, benefit changes and so-called dueling doctor reforms that have, in part, accounted for an eight percent decrease in workers' compensation filings since those reforms were passed during a 1994 special session of the legislature;

- Six new workers' compensation insurers are now writing policies in the state and workers' compensation lines are reported by some companies to be among their most profitable;

- More than 40,000 workers are now enrolled in workplace medical plans, helping to further contain premium costs;

- Fraud charges have increased by 37 percent in the last year with 92 percent of the concluded cases ending in guilty pleas;

- The use of the independent medical exam has increased 42 percent to date from 1995 when the legislative change was implemented to allow their usage; and

- Enhancements to the workers' compensation counselor program designed to improve communication about the system to both employers and employees have had a

Continued on next page

"The trouble with being a hypochondriac these days is that antibiotics have cured all the good diseases."

Caskie Stinnet

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

significant impact in reducing unnecessary legal expenses to both employers and employees; the program has experienced a doubling of participation in educational seminars in 1996 and has saved Oklahoma employers hundreds of thousands of dollars in premium costs.

(Copies of the Senate study may be obtained by contacting LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION NETWORK by e-mail or phone, 528-2546)

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/26/96

EDUCATION

REP. LAURA BOYD MEETS WITH HOME SCHOOL ADVOCATES, DISCUSS POSSIBLE REGULATIONS

■(GIT) Home school advocates told an Oklahoma lawmaker Monday that a system is already in place to verify that parents who claim to be home schooling their children are living up to that obligation and that no additional regulations are needed.

"I don't think (any additional regulation) is necessary," Joe Esposito, a home schooling parent from Owasso, told Rep. Laura Boyd, D-Norman, during a meeting at the state capitol Monday. Citing Tulsa County as an example, Esposito said district attorneys, under the state's truancy laws, have the ability to verify that a student is being home schooled.

"The system is in place. It does work. It just needs to be implemented properly," said Esposito.

Boyd called the meeting after some state officials, including Governor Frank Keating, suggested that some regulations may be needed to verify that parents who claim to be home schooling their children are living up to the obligation and to prevent abusive parents from using home schooling as a shield from child abuse investigations.

The issue arose in the report of a task force appointed by the governor to review the case of Shane Coffman, an eight-year-old Cleveland County boy who authorities claim was beaten to death by his mother and her boyfriend.

According to members of the task force, the Department of Human Services and law enforcement officials backed away from their investigations into the case after being told the boy was being home schooled. That led

the governor's task force to conclude, "In this case, home schooling was used to effectively hide the death of one child and the abuse of several others from those who were attempting to investigate their abuse. The public policy which allows for home schooling in the absence of any oversight needs to be critically examined."

Nearly 20 home school advocates, primarily home schooling parents, participated in Monday's meeting; some brought their children. Like Esposito, the majority expressed concern over the idea of imposing some sort of regulation on home schooling.

Scott Somerville, an attorney representing home schooling parents for the Virginia-based Home School Defense Association, agreed with Esposito, adding that the efforts of Tulsa County prosecutors to verify parents' home schooling claims needed to be replicated across the state.

"Do you know what they do in Oklahoma County?" Somerville asked. "Nothing. But the fact is it's against the law for a child not to receive an education, either in the public schools, private school or at home."

Somerville called the interaction between home schooling parents and social workers "a recipe for disaster," pointing largely to the distrust that exists on both sides of the relationship. Instead of dealing with social workers, Somerville said home schooling parents would be better served by the adversarial relationship with law enforcement officers or prosecutors, framed within the context of one's constitutional rights.

Somerville cited the efforts of Virginia to codify such a relationship. In that case, information obtained by a social worker cannot be used against an individual in a court proceeding. That, he said, puts the burden on social workers and law enforcement officers to ensure that individuals' constitu-

tional rights are properly protected and that a search warrant be obtained in order to gather evidence for use in a criminal proceeding.

Somerville told *Capitol Network News* following the meeting, "There's not a single state in the country where the laws concerning home schooling could have deterred the death of Shane Coffman."

Rev. Johnny Hinton, a home schooling parent from Wewoka, expressed a similar sentiment, noting that states which regulate home schooling, such as Wisconsin, do so on the basis of the education being provided, rather than on the basis of child welfare or protection.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

SENATE PANEL DISCUSSES LANGUAGE LEGISLATION

■(GIT) Members of a Senate interim study committee were urged Monday to consider adopting legislation that would make English the state government's official language.

"Fluency in the English language will do more to empower people coming to America — and Oklahoma — than any government service that may be provided to them in their first language," Mauro E. Mujica, chairman of the board and chief executive officer for U.S. English, told the interim study committee on English as an official language (96S-105). The organization describes itself as "the largest national, non-partisan, non-profit citizens' action group dedicated to preserving the unifying role of the English language in the United States."

"Unfortunately," Mujica added, "the effect of many of the government's well-intentioned multilingual programs is to handicap those very people these programs are designed to help. The programs destroy the incentive to learn English by sending the message to newcomers that you don't have to learn English to succeed. The fact of the matter is that you do need to know and to master English to succeed in America."

Mujica called English "the catalyst that has brought us together as Americans." Legislation adopting the language as the state's official language, he added, "encourages newcomers to learn English, while at the

Continued on next page

"While taking his leave of the king to go off and command the army, Marshall Villars said so that all the court could hear: 'Sire, I am going to fight Your Majesty's enemies, and I leave you her in the midst of mine.'"

Voltaire
Le Siecle de Louis XIV
1751

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



same time establishes a common-sense language policy for the government."

At the same time, Mujica said, any legislation should allow reasonable exceptions that would allow some services to be provided in languages other than English, such as public health, safety and emergency services, judicial proceedings, education to students with limited English proficiencies and foreign language instruction.

Twenty-three states, Mujica said, have adopted legislation designating English as their official language, while similar efforts have passed the House in Oklahoma — HB1385 in 1994 and HB2154 in 1995 — but have failed or died in the Senate.

Mujica faced sometimes harsh questioning from members of the Senate committee and even harsher criticism from some in the audience.

Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, asked what impact such legislation would have on multilingual efforts already approved by the legislature, such as allowing drivers' license tests to be offered in Spanish, as well as five other languages. Mujica said most legislation would not impact such efforts, because drivers' license tests are usually one of the exemptions provided for in the bills.

"I agree," said Mujica, "that we have to give some time for immigrants to this country to assimilate, but we also have to have an incentive for them to learn English. If people had been able to keep their original languages, this country would not have been built."

Asked by Leftwich whether it might be easier to repeal existing laws that mandate certain government services be provided in a variety of languages, Mujica said doing so

would create the risk of a claim of discrimination by those who saw their native language eliminated from the list of those used in government services.

Mujica's views were particularly not well received by those in the audience.

Barbara Warner, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, said efforts such as that promoted by U.S. English threatened bilingual education funding, and in turn, the continued existence of Native American languages.

"My tribe," she said, "has only 2,300 members. When we die, that language is going to die, while Spanish and German and others will continue to live on."

Bilingual education, she said, promotes language preservation and the likelihood that the Ponca Tribe's language would continue to exist.

Mujica noted the irony of the criticism of the efforts of himself and of the organization he heads, explaining that he, too, is an immigrant.

"I, too, an immigrant — I came here from Chile some 31 years ago to study architecture at Columbia University — and know firsthand how important it is to know English to succeed in the United States," he said.

Committee chairman Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, noted that the panel is neither currently looking at any one piece of legislation or at drafting English as an official language legislation. He did note, however, that such legislation is expected to come before lawmakers during the 46th Legislature.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

STATE PARTIALLY REIMBURSED FOR KEATING POLITICAL FLIGHTS

■(GIT) The Department of Public Safety has been partially reimbursed for some "purely political" flights taken by Governor Frank Keating since the department acquired a new plane for the use of the executive branch earlier this year, information provided to House of Representatives staff indicates.

Department commissioner and state Secretary of Public Safety Bob Ricks informed the House staff last week that his department has received \$5,902 for Keating's use of the state airplane to attend partisan political events.

Almost two-thirds of the nearly \$6,000 reimbursed to the state, \$3,600, was repayment for the governor's trip to the GOP national convention in San Diego and for his

flight to the North Dakota Republican convention in March, which involved a leased aircraft.

Meanwhile, a Senate staff member confirmed Monday that Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, and House Speaker-elect Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, will appoint a joint committee to consider whether there should be changes in the state policy concerning airplane use. A formal announcement of the panel's formation is not expected until sometime next week or perhaps later.

Keating and Ricks, citing state statutes and a legal analysis prepared by the governor's chief deputy counsel, have said it is the Department of Public Safety's responsibility to provide security and transportation to the governor at all times. At the request of lawmakers, the attorney general and auditor and inspector are looking into the matter.

The attorney general is expected to rule on whether it is legal for the governor to use the plane for personal and political trips, while the auditor and inspector is expected to determine what rate of reimbursement would be appropriate for the plane's usage for trips not related to state business. Both may address the acquisition of the plane, which some lawmakers have charged may have been improperly conducted.

Ricks refute that allegation, going so far as to say in an interview with *Capitol Network News* that his staff deserves a commendation for their work.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

LAND SECRETARY WITHDRAWS PURCHASE, SEEKS AG'S OPINION

■(GIT) The top administrator of the state's School Land Commission said Monday that he plans to ask the commission to drop his purchase of a parcel of commission-owned land and to seek an attorney general's opinion on the legality of such a purpose.

Speaking to reporters only minutes before a scheduled meeting of the commission, secretary Rob Johnson told reporters of his plans to withdraw from the purchase of a 160-acre parcel of land in Pawnee County and to seek a ruling from the attorney general.

According to published reports, Johnson, who was appointed to the post in 1995 by

Continued on next page

"We must not in the course of public life expect immediate approbation and immediate grateful acknowledgment of our services. But let us persevere through abuse and even injury. The internal satisfaction of a good conscience is always present, and time will do us justice in the minds of the people, even those at present the most prejudiced against us."

Benjamin Franklin
letter to Joseph Galloway
Dec. 2, 1772

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Governor Frank Keating and previously served in the state House of Representatives, bought the land through a third party, a Tulsa Realtor, for \$99,000. The land includes a 22-acre lake and is located approximately five miles west of Pawnee.

Until last December, the commission's own rules prevented its employees or members from buying land it offered for sale. Those rules were changed during a meeting 11 months ago.

Although the matter was discussed during Monday's commission meeting, the commissioners did not address Johnson's request to drop his plan to purchase the land, because the issue was not a part of the commission's posted agenda.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

KEATING GRABS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

■(GIT) Earlier this year he was considered a potential vice presidential candidate, first by a radio talk show and later by the national media.

Then, Governor Frank Keating caught the eye of the national media when he traveled to Chicago to serve in the Republican National Committee's so-called truth squad during the Democratic National Convention.

Now, the state's governor is once again in the national eye, this time offering his assessment on the state of partisan political affairs at the Republican Governors' Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In an article appearing in Tuesday's edition of the *Washington Post*, Oklahoma's governor recalled the atmosphere of two years ago when he, other Republican governors and congressional leaders met in Williamsburg a few weeks after the national elections.

"It was almost jingoistic," Keating told *Post* reporter Dan Balz, referring to the state of mind of Republicans, fresh off what quickly became known as the Republican revolution. "Here, it's back to basics."

The governor went on to say, "We anticipated the city [Washington] would fall overnight. We're in for a long siege. We have to reassess our strategy and tactics . . . We've got to work together or the American people will unelect all of us."

That assessment is not too unlike the position Keating adopted in Oklahoma in the wake of this year's general election. Al-

though brimming with optimism when more Republican candidates than Democrats filed for office, the state GOP picked up only two state legislative seats, both in the Senate, and managed to protect its control of the veto in the state House — a fact that may not bode well for a governor who said his possible bid for reelection would depend on "more, more, more" Republicans finding their way into the state legislature.

"I hope we can cut the confrontational level and increase cooperation when the new legislature convenes in February," Keating said the day after the general election. "There are important issues on the table such as right-to-work, workers' compensation reform and education. The election is over and it's time to work together to find common ground and to advance a pro-growth, bipartisan agenda for Oklahoma."

Saying he expects partisan disputes in Washington to diminish during the second term of President Bill Clinton, Keating added, "If Bill and Newt and Trent can do it, so can Frank and Stratton and Loyd. Good government is balanced government, and that means finding common ground."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/26/96

INSURANCE

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS CONFUSED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Insurance Department has been deluged with Prudential policyholders confused about how — or if — they should file claims relating to Prudential's nationwide settlement of a class action lawsuit alleging misconduct and misleading sales practices.

The lawsuit involves only those people who purchased whole life insurance policies between Jan. 1, 1982 and Dec. 1, 1996 from Prudential Co. of America. It is estimated

roughly 65,000 Oklahomans fall in this category.

Prudential is offering to pay a minimum of \$410 million to settle allegations its agents used unscrupulous practices to sell the company's life insurance products. Earlier this month, Prudential sent out information packets to those believed affected, including the 65,000 in Oklahoma.

"While the packets explain the nationwide settlement as simply as possible, they still contain legal and insurance language which may confuse the average person," said Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John P. Crawford.

Among the questions many callers ask are whether their insurance policies remain in force, whether they should or shouldn't file a claim, or similar questions. Most, however, simply don't know what to do.

"The answer is, policyholders don't have to decide anything right away," Crawford said. "This initial mailing is informative in nature. Subsequent mailings will provide people a chance to formally file complaints and try to claim some of the money."

Many questions are best addressed by calling the Prudential settlement hotline. Hotline representatives can confirm a number of details about callers' policies and the settlement. They do not, however, recommend whether callers should file a claim against Prudential.

"My biggest concern is for policyholders who have a lot of money at stake and believe they may have been misled," Crawford said. "Many of these people have complicated financial decisions to make and should be consulting an independent financial advisor or attorney, if possible."

"Policyholders who believe they were victimized may either pursue their claims in the class action or they may 'opt out' of the class and pursue their claims on their own," Crawford said. "I suspect that some people may have been subjected to illegal sales practices, but perhaps didn't realize it. These people may want to remain in the class until they have had an opportunity to better assess their particular situation."

Prudential and independent, court-appointed advisors will determine the merits of each claim on a case-by-case basis. The size and magnitude of the wrong-doing, as well as the supporting evidence, will be weighed in settling each case.

Continued on next page

"The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master, unless he transforms strength into right, and obedience into duty."

Jean Jacques Rousseau
The Social Contract
1762

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

People who received packets who don't feel they were misled can opt out of the settlement by indicating such in writing to Prudential. The deadline for "opting out" is Dec. 19, 1996. If people don't formally drop out, they will continue receiving mailings regarding the settlement.

—STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
11/26/96

MILITARY AFFAIRS

STATE LAWMAKERS STUDY NATIONAL CEMETERY

■(GIT) Four members of the House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee convened Tuesday at the Capitol for the second meeting of Interim Study 96H-25 on Fort Sill State/National Cemetery Site. Rep. Al Sadler, D-Ardmore, presided over the interim group created to study placing a National Cemetery at Fort Sill north of Lawton.

Department of Transportation representative Bob Rose said, "The Department of Transportation would like to work with the Veterans Affairs Committee and all others to bring the National Cemetery to Oklahoma. We stand ready to offer any kind of assistance."

Sadler asked Rose if any studies had been done on what type of road improvements would be needed.

Rose responded, "No studies have been conducted yet. We are going to need to know if the Federal Government has any specific requirements for access roads into National Cemeteries."

Wells commented, "We need to do a study to find out how many visitors will be traveling to the cemetery." In addition, the committee is looking into whether the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority would waive turnpike fees for funeral processions traveling on the H.E. Bailey turnpike to Lawton.

Possible improvements for access roads include anything from the resurfacing of Jake Dunn Road north of Lawton, and U.S. Highway 277 out of Elgin, to the grading and drainage improvements of the same. In addition, constructing off-ramps on I-40 and installing turn lanes on Jake Dunn Road were discussed.

Towards the end of the meeting, Barbra Warner, Executive Director of the State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, interjected with her concern that if the pro-

posed land for the National Cemetery is not used by Ft Sill it may revert back to Indian Tribes in the area.

This revelation caused Sadler to adjourn the meeting by asking the committee to examine the land title to discover if there is a possibility of reverter for the land and discuss the issue at the next hearing.

—BRANDON R. WEBB
11/26/96

OIL & GAS

OCC RAISES GAS PRODUCTION ALLOWABLE TO 65%

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission Tuesday, Nov. 26, raised the amount of gas most wells in Oklahoma will be allowed to produce in the first quarter of 1997 to the greater of 65 percent of calculated absolute open flow or 1.3 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The limit has been the greater of 50 percent of 1 million cubic feet per day since the second quarter of 1996. The 65 percent production allowable is the highest ever permitted in Oklahoma. The previous high was 50 percent, which has been authorized at various times for about the last 20 years, available records indicate.

The commissioners said increasing allowable production to 65 percent reflects a

strong demand for natural gas for the winter heating season. The commission staff said national gas-in-storage at the end of September was 5 percent below the 1995 level and 8.8 percent below the 1994 level.

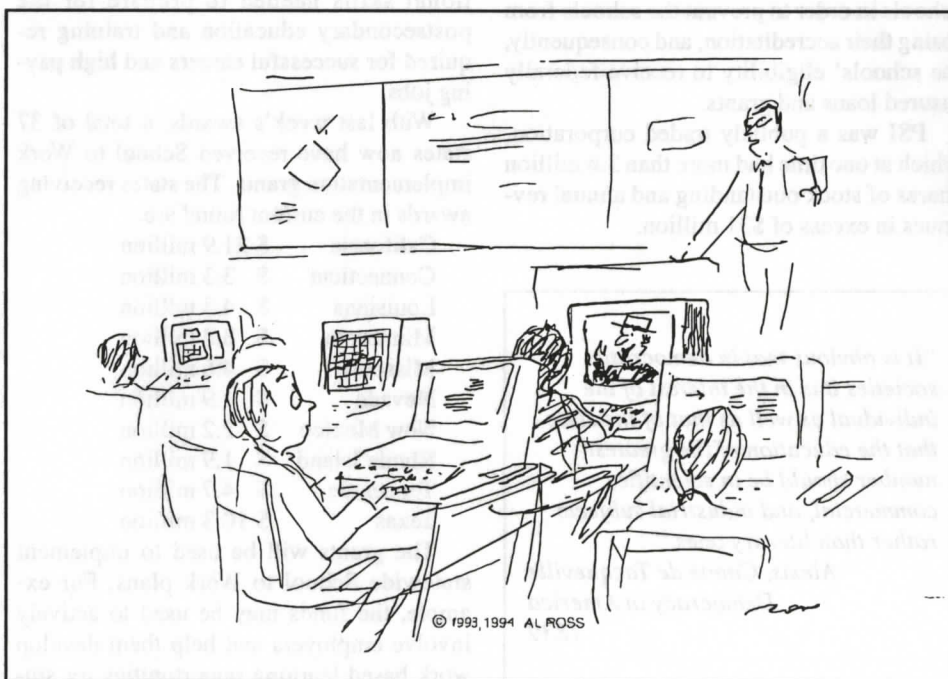
Representatives of several major gas producers and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association told the commission in a public hearing that all producers have markets for all the gas they can produce. They also said the demand is expected to remain strong at least through the first quarter of 1997.

The commission staff recommended an increase to the greater of 55 percent or 1.1 million cubic feet of gas per day. But Claude McNully, technical department manager, said the staff had no objection to the higher production allowable proposed by gas producers.

No one opposed an increase in allowable gas production.

The production limit affects unallocated wells, which are not regulated by production allocations for specific fields. About 95 percent of Oklahoma wells are unallocated. The commission staff estimates that the production limit will affect fewer than 1,000 of Oklahoma's approximately 29,000 gas wells since most wells are not capable of producing enough gas to reach the allowable limit.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION
11/26/96



FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



EDUCATION

TRADE SCHOOL OPERATORS PLEAD GUILTY TO FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY

■(WASHINGTON) The president and CEO of a national chain of computer schools has pleaded guilty to felony charges filed in Akron, Ohio.

Irwin Mautner, of Greenwich, Conn., was charged with mail fraud, conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Department of Education, and making a false statement in connection with a matter within the jurisdiction of the department. Each violation carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Mautner was the head of Programming and Systems, Inc. (PSI), headquartered in New York. PSI operated vocational schools in Baltimore; Charlotte, NC; Cleveland; Columbus, Ohio; Flint, MI, Indianapolis; Miami; New York; Philadelphia; Southfield, MI; and Washington, DC. The schools closed in 1992 and 1993.

From July 1988 through Sept. 1993 — the period covered by the indictment — PSI schools received federally insured student loans totaling more than \$100 million and Federal Pell Grant funds totaling more than \$41 million. The indictment charged that Mautner participated in a scheme to defraud the Education Department by concealing the high rate of student withdrawals at PSI schools in order to prevent the schools from losing their accreditation, and consequently, the schools' eligibility to receive federally insured loans and grants.

PSI was a publicly traded corporation, which at one time had more than 3.6 million shares of stock outstanding and annual revenues in excess of \$31 million.

"It is obvious that in democratic societies it is in the interest of the individual as well as that of the state that the education of the greatest number should be in scientific, commercial, and industrial subjects rather than literary ones."

Alexis, Comte de Tocqueville
Democracy in America
1839

Mautner had previously consented in Dec. 1994 to civil penalties imposed by the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with false financial statements submitted to the commission.

Mautner, PSI National Financial Aid Director Ronald Sundick, and the corporation were indicted in Cleveland on Aug. 13, 1996, by a federal grand jury for the Northern District of Ohio. In a plea agreement with the government, Sundick pleaded guilty on Nov. 14, 1996, to a one count information that charged him with violation of Title 18, United States Code 1516, Obstruction of a Federal Audit.

Mautner and Sundick are scheduled to be sentenced early next year.

Assistant United States Attorney James C. Lynch presented the plea before Federal District Court Judge Sam Bell.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/25/96

EDUCATION, LABOR AWARD \$58.9 MILLION TO GET SCHOOL-TO-WORK GOING

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor last week announced the award of \$58 million in School to Work grants to 10 states that are ready to implement systems that prepare students for college and careers.

The grants will support efforts to help students obtain the academic and occupational skills needed to prepare for the postsecondary education and training required for successful careers and high paying jobs.

With last week's awards, a total of 37 states now have received School to Work implementation grants. The states receiving awards in the current round are:

California	\$ 21.9 million
Connecticut	\$ 3.3 million
Louisiana	\$ 4.3 million
Minnesota	\$ 3.8 million
Missouri	\$ 4.6 million
Nevada	\$ 1.9 million
New Mexico	\$ 2.2 million
Rhode Island	\$ 1.9 million
Tennessee	\$ 4.7 million
Texas	\$ 10.3 million

The grants will be used to implement statewide School to Work plans. For example, the funds may be used to actively involve employers and help them develop work based learning opportunities for stu-

dents; design and implement challenging secondary school curricula; provide training opportunities for teachers, employers, workplace mentors and counselors; promote partnerships among employers, labor, education, government and community organizations; or work with local groups to introduce students, parents and educators to the connection between classroom activities and learning on the job.

The funds represent the first installment of a five year investment intended to help states and territories get School to Work systems underway at the local level. States receive funds after submitting comprehensive School to Work plans and demonstrating their readiness to implement them. Implementation grants are awarded on a competitive basis to new states, as appropriations permit.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven U.S. territories received non competitive development grants totaling \$24.3 million in 1994 to design statewide School to Work systems. A development grant may be renewed until a state is ready to compete for, and is awarded, a School to Work implementation grant.

Tennessee has a high level of employer involvement in the School to Work effort, with Lockheed Martin, BellSouth and Saturn taking strong leadership roles. In Minnesota, a union business partnership has established a charter high school to provide students with the academic and workplace skills needed to compete in today's high tech economy. Louisiana is involving out of school youth in School to Work efforts by developing a close working relationship with the New Orleans Job Corps Center. In California, a statewide school to career curriculum that emphasizes early career exploration is being reviewed by the public and should be available to schools in 1997. In Texas, Minnesota and Tennessee, state legislation now connects School to Work initiatives with statewide workforce and economic development efforts.

According to a recently released, two year progress report to the U.S. Congress on the implementation of the School to Work Opportunities Act, 500,000 students, 135,000 employers and 1,800 schools throughout the nation are involved in federally funded school to work activities.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/26/96

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



ENVIRONMENT

ASSURANCE MECHANISMS FINALIZED FOR OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS

■ (WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule that gives local governments more flexibility to meet the financial assurance requirements of the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Criteria.

The promulgation of the Local Government Financial Test allows local governments to meet their financial assurance obligations for closure, post-closure care and corrective action pursuant to the Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Criteria. The effective date for these financial assurance requirements is April 9, 1997, for landfill owners and operators except for small, dry or remote landfill owners and operators who have until Oct. 9, 1997.

A local government can make this demonstration by showing that it has issued a general obligation bond for which it received an investment grade rating. A municipality can also show that its cash holdings and debt obligations pass established ratios and thereby meet the financial assurance requirements. In addition, a local government cannot have an excessive operating deficit for each of the last two years relative to the local government's total budget.

Local governments must report annually on whether they continue to meet the conditions of the test and inform the public that they are using the test. Local governments that pass the financial test can also assure obligations for other landfill owners and operators if they choose to do so.

An estimated 91 percent of local governments can use their financial strength to assure at least part of their obligations and 54 percent can assure all of their obligations using the local government financial test. Those local governments that are eligible to

exercise this options can realize substantial cost savings in complying with the Criteria. This rule also gives state directors the authority to waive the financial assurance requirements for up to 12 months for good cause in specific cases where the April 9, 1997, deadline does not provide sufficient time to comply with these requirements and where such a waiver will not adversely affect human health and the environment.

For more information, contact the RCRA/ Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9336.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/26/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

WATKINS WINS WAYS & MEANS SEAT

■ (GIT) Oklahoma's Third District pseudo-freshman Congressman Wes Watkins got what he bargained for Friday after winning election to the House of Representatives in this month's general election — a seat on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee.

Watkins, who represented the district for 14 years as a Democrat, was one of two Republican freshmen, named to fill three open slots on the panel, which is heavily involved in tax writing.

During his campaign, Watkins admitted that a promise of a slot on the committee from House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Georgia, played a role in his move from independent — the banner under which he sought the state's governorship in 1994 — to Republican. His conversion to independent followed 14 years as a Democratic representative for the district and a failed 1990 bid for party's gubernatorial nomination.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/25/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES FOOD RECOVERY POLICY

■ (WASHINGTON) The Clinton Administration put the emphasis on the "thanks" and the "giving" last week as the President announced that it would be the federal government's policy to promote and to practice gleaning and food recovery.

In his weekly radio address last Saturday President Clinton said he will sign a directive making it his administration's policy

to promote food recovery and to assure that no wholesome food goes to waste that can be provided to those in need. The President directed every federal agency to actively work to recover surplus food from their cafeterias, commissaries, public events and other food service facilities and to encourage state, local, and non-governmental partners and grantees to participate.

The President also announced that the Department of Agriculture would release "A Citizen's Guide to Food Recovery" — a guidebook for getting prepared, perishable food that would otherwise be thrown away to those people who need it.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said, "The resource guide will make it easier for individuals, groups, and businesses to get involved in gleaning and food recovery efforts, nationally and in their own communities. It will provide information on starting such an effort and give names and addresses of charities involved in these efforts."

The President also established an inter-agency task force on gleaning and food recovery to carry out the new policy and to assist agencies with food recovery efforts. Glickman will chair the working group comprised of all federal agencies.

As part of his continuing efforts, Glickman:

- Established a toll free number (1-800 GLEAN IT) to facilitate food recovery efforts;

- Sponsored four farmers' markets (and a fifth Tuesday) where at the end of the day, the D.C. Central Kitchen recovered about 800 pounds of food not sold and distributed it to needy families in Washington, D.C.;

- Hosted a national round table to discuss food recovery and two regional meetings to talk about dismantling barriers to food donation.

Citizens can obtain "A Citizen's Guide to Food Recovery" by calling 1-800-GLEAN IT.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
11/25/96

NEW PROGRAM HELPS STUDENT ATHLETES AVOID STEROIDS USE

■ (WASHINGTON) A new drug prevention and education program called ATLAS (Adolescents Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids) is extremely effective in preventing use of anabolic steroids among high school

Continued on next page

"Men may be popular without being ambitious; but there is rarely an ambitious man who does not try to be popular."

*Frederick North, 8th Baron North
speech in the House of Commons
March, 1769*

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



athletes, according to a study published in the Nov. 20, 1996 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The study demonstrated that students in the ATLAS program had enhanced healthy behaviors, reduced factors that encourage steroid use, and lower intent to use steroids. The ATLAS program, created by scientists at the Oregon Health Sciences University and led by Dr. Linn Goldberg, was funded by a research grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health.

The ATLAS program includes seven 50-minute classes led by coaches and student team leaders. These sessions focus on the effects of steroids, sports nutrition, and strength training alternatives to steroids use. Students also participate in drug refusal role playing and learn about anti-steroids media messages. In addition to the classes there are seven weight room sessions taught by Oregon Health Sciences University research staff. Information is also distributed to parents, and they were invited to a discussion session.

The randomized, prospective study involved 1,506 football players/students from 31 different high schools. This year-long study was the first study to use coaches as members of the drug prevention team. Students filled out confidential questionnaires immediately before and after participating in the ATLAS program and then again approximately 12 months later to measure the effectiveness of the program.

Compared to student athletes who were not exposed to the ATLAS program, ATLAS participants had increased understanding of the effects of steroids, greater belief in personal vulnerability to the consequences of steroid use, improved drug refusal skills, less belief in steroid-promoting media messages, increased belief in the team as an information source, improved perception of athletic abilities and strength training self-efficacy, improved nutrition and exercise behaviors and reduced intentions to use steroids.

—NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
11/25/96

GROUP B STREP VACCINE SHOWS PROMISE IN CLINICAL STUDIES

■(WASHINGTON) A major step toward developing a vaccine to prevent infections with Group B streptococci bacteria, an important cause of infant disease and death, has been reported by researchers supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The study results appear in the Nov. 15, 1996, issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

An experimental vaccine against one type of Group B strep stimulated strong immune responses in human volunteers. Later, in laboratory experiments, antibodies isolated from the volunteers neutralized the same type of Group B strep bacteria and prevented infection in newborn mice that were exposed to it.

Ten to 30 percent of all women are asymptomatic carriers of Group B strep, harboring the bacteria in their genital tracts.

During childbirth, the bacteria is transmitted to approximately half of all infants born to these women. Nearly two of every 1,000 infants in the United States develop invasive infections, which can cause pneumonia, meningitis and other serious illnesses, usually within the first three months of life. Half of all infants who develop Group B strep meningitis experience long-term neurologic problems, including seizure disorders and mental retardation. About 10 percent of infected infants die.

For more than a decade, Dennis L. Kasper, M.D., lead author of the current study and his colleagues at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston have tried to develop a vaccine that would protect infants from Group B strep by stimulating the production of antibodies in pregnant women. Theoretically, the maternal immunity generated by such a vaccine would cross the placental membranes and protect the newborn for the first few months of its life, when most Group B strep disease occurs.

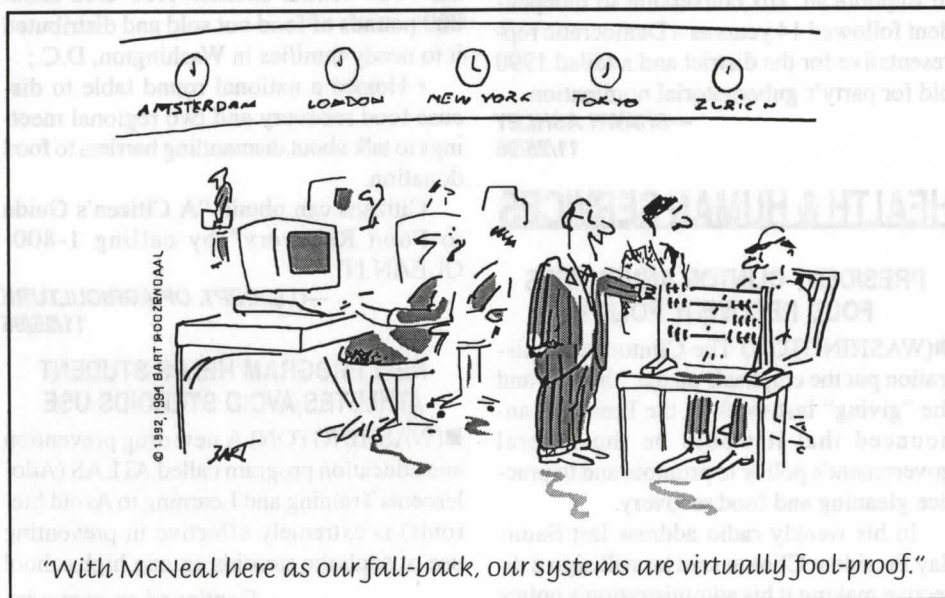
The Group B strep bacterium is enveloped in a complex sugar molecule called a polysaccharide capsule. Because it is known to play a key role in stimulating the production of antibodies to Group B strep, the capsule is a logical vaccine candidate. However, previous studies supported by NIAID found that immunization with the purified capsule molecule produced insufficient amounts of antibody in human volunteers. Those studies led Dr. Kasper and his colleagues to try to boost the vaccine's performance by chemically linking, or conjugating, the capsule to tetanus toxoid, a protein that has been used to increase the immune-stimulating properties of several other vaccines.

In the current study the researchers compared this so-called conjugate vaccine with its predecessor.

"These findings demonstrate that the antibodies produced by the conjugate vaccine are able to cross the placental membrane and could confer protection against Group B strep to the fetus," says Dr. Kasper.

The vaccine used in the current study was a monovalent product — designed to protect against just one of the various types of Group B strep that cause disease in infants. Ultimately, a multivalent vaccine, providing protection against all types, will be needed. Acknowledging that much more work remains before a Group B strep vaccine

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FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



reaches the marketplace, Dr. Kasper says that the conjugate vaccine developed by his group provides a blueprint for subsequent vaccines.

"We're definitely headed in the right direction," he says. "This is a prototype of what Group B strep vaccines will look like."

—NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
11/25/96

PROSTATE CANCER GENE LOCATION FOUND ON CHROMOSOME 1

■(BETHESDA, MD) Researchers at the National Center for Human Genome Research (NCHGR), Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and Umea University, Umea, Sweden, have identified the location of the first major gene that predisposes men to prostate cancer. The gene, named HPC-1 (hereditary prostate cancer 1) by the researchers, is situated on the long arm of chromosome 1. The finding, to be published in the Nov. 22 issue of the journal *Science*, is the first proof that genes conferring hereditary predisposition to prostate cancer exist.

Scientists discovered the gene location through an international study involving 91 families in which at least three members suffered from prostate cancer. The region implicated represents about 0.3 percent of the human genome and will now be the subject of intense scrutiny to identify the gene responsible. Once the HPC-1 gene itself is identified, it is expected to shed light on how and why prostate cancer develops and also suggest strategies for preventing and treating it.

Although the disease has been known to run in families, genetic analyses of prostate cancer have been difficult. In the United States, men stand a one-in-five chance of developing prostate cancer; the most common malignancy among men and the cause of more than 40,000 deaths annually. That indicates many different factors, genetic and environmental, may contribute to the disease.

Approximately 1 in every 500 men is believed to possess an altered version of the gene. The researchers estimate that alterations in the HPC-1 gene are responsible for at least a third of familial prostate cancer. Familial prostate cancer accounts for about 1 in 10 cases of the disease, while the numbers for the early onset form of the disease are somewhat higher.

Development of a susceptibility test is still several steps away, requiring at a mini-

mum the identification of the HPC-1 gene itself, according to NCHGR Director Dr. Francis Collins. "In the future," says Collins, "combining genetic susceptibility testing with testing for prostate-specific antigen and other early detection measures will be potentially of value in preventing deaths from this common disorder."

The study focused first on analyzing data and tissue samples from 66 high-risk American families collected by Johns Hopkins researchers. Most of the families were recruited through letters from urologists, and some were identified through media advertisements. At NCHGR, a genome-wide scan of DNA from these families indicated a gene on chromosome 1. The site was confirmed by analyzing DNA from an additional 13 high-risk American families and 12 high-risk families studied by scientists at Umea University.

Hopkins researchers are asking individuals from families in which three or more close relatives have had prostate cancer and who wish to participate in a research study on the genetics of that disease to contact the study team at (410) 614-5434, or write to Dr. Patrick C. Walsh, Hereditary Prostate Cancer Study, Dept. W., Brady Urological Institute, Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, MD 21287.

For more information about prostate cancer, call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER.

—NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN
GENOME RESEARCH
11/25/96

SMALL INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH CARE YIELD BIG PAYOFFS

■(WASHINGTON) Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Kevin L. Thurm on Monday named five innovative local health programs "Models That Work" for providing better, lower cost health care for people with few options, and for a positive economic and social impact on communities.

"A disposition to preserve, and an ability to improve, taken together, would be my standard of a statesman."

Edmund Burke
Reflections on the Revolution in France
1790

The HHS Models That Work campaign—a public/private sector partnership that promotes replication of grassroots programs — identified the five projects in El Paso, Texas; Los Angeles, CA, Philadelphia, PA; Tampa, FL; and Monroe, MI, for showcasing and replicating in other communities. The replication success of 1995 Models in East St. Louis, IL, and Vista, CA, were also featured.

Applying innovative solutions to tough problems, doctors, nurses and community health care workers are providing care in public housing, migrant farmworker camps and poor rural communities. Successes include fewer emergency room visits; higher childhood immunization rates; better informed and educated individuals, families and health care workers; help for homeless youth; and volunteer and paid jobs for community workers.

Some 41 million Americans—most of them in working families — have no health insurance. Additionally, cultural, geographic and language barriers block access to basic health care for many individuals and families. They postpone or forego needed care, miss time at work or school, and end up caught in a vicious cycle of poor health and lost productivity.

More than 250 local programs competed in this year's Models That Work competition. The winners, selected for innovation, effectiveness, community involvement and replicability, are:

Tampa, FL, Hillsborough County Health Care Plan: Has enrolled 27,000 poor and uninsured county residents in its own version of managed care. The plan has seen its members' hospital admissions drop 28 percent, hospital stays decrease 40 percent and per person health care cost plummet 61 percent. Hillsborough County estimates it has saved \$6 million by diverting 8,000 emergency room visits to outpatient primary care.

El Paso, Texas, Project Vida: Provides primary health care, education and social services to poor, uninsured, predominately Hispanic people and families. Recruits patients to become volunteer or salaried community health workers. Project estimates it saves the local health system \$150,000 annually in uncompensated and unnecessary emergency room visits.

Los Angeles, CA, Los Angeles Free Clinic Hollywood Center: Reaches out to

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FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



homeless youth with medical, dental, psychiatric, substance abuse and pregnancy care. Provides HIV testing, job training and placement. Relies on peer counselors to move troubled, vulnerable young people off the streets and into more stable living arrangements.

Philadelphia, PA, Resources for Human Development: One of the first nurse-operated managed care programs in the state. Serves two public housing communities. Has dramatically increased child immunization rates, sharply decreased incidence of low birthweight, cut health care costs and created jobs for public housing residents.

Monroe, MI, Camp Health Aide Program: Trains migrant and seasonal farmworkers as health aides to provide health education, first aid and other health and social services to their peers, and to train health care providers in cultural sensitivity. Encourages and assists aides to complete nursing or medical assistant training programs.

Two of the first Models That Work, chosen last year, shared their success in helping others: East St. Louis, IL, East Side Health Care Coalition, has several replications in the works, the first in a Springfield, IL, community of 23,000 with no other health care resources. Also honored was Vista, CA, Fund for Moms, which offers low cost loans to cover the costs of prenatal care and has several replications in the works.

The Models That Work campaign pays travel and other expenses for project staff to teach others in similar circumstances how to provide basic health care and related social services to underserved communities. It also supports conference workshops that

highlight these outstanding grassroots programs, a directory and on-line data base of model programs, and guidelines and technical assistance to spawn replications.

HRSA's major partners in Models That Work include the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Pharmacia & Upjohn and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Within HHS, the Health Care Financing Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention co-sponsor MTW. The HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Rural Health Policy also co-sponsor the campaign.

—U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
11/26/96

MILITARY AFFAIRS

VA EXPANDS OUTREACH TO SEXUAL TRAUMA VICTIMS

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding efforts to reach out to women veterans who experienced sexual trauma while serving in the military.

VA recently publicized its national toll-free number, reminding women veterans who need information on sexual trauma counseling and treatment, and filing claims for disability compensation to call VA's toll-free number — 1-800-827-1000.

The department activated the number after normal business hours in connection with the Nov. 15 airing of ABC's *20/20* which featured two segments on rape in the military. More than 2,000 calls were re-

ceived. Although not all were related to sexual trauma, VA staff were able to assist a number of women veterans who needed counseling and referrals to the nearest VA facility or community resource.

Women veterans who call the toll-free number seeking assistance are routed to the regional office women veteran coordinators who can provide information and assist in referrals to VA medical centers or Readjustment Counseling Service Veterans Outreach Centers (Vet Centers). Male veterans are referred to the nearest VA facility with a post-traumatic stress disorder program or to the nearest Vet Center.

—U.S. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
11/25/96

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR AIR BAGS ANNOUNCED

■(WASHINGTON) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) last week announced a comprehensive approach to preserve the important safety benefit of air bags while minimizing their danger to children and at-risk adults.

The agency announced its approach centers on accelerating the development of "smart air bag" technology for future vehicles with the intent of having the systems available in fall 1998 for 1999 models. More immediate measures include adoption of enhanced warning labels, depowering of air bags and continuing to allow the use of cut-off switches in vehicles without a rear seat to protect children.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., said, "The safety of the motoring public is our highest priority. Air bags are working well, but need to be improved to enhance the safety of children and small stature adults. These comprehensive measures will maintain the safety benefits of air bags, decrease their potential hazard to children and at-risk adults, and provide consumers with important safety information.

The agency will propose setting a phase-in schedule for the next generation of air bags to begin in fall 1998 for 1999 models. With the growth of research and competition in air bag technology, NHTSA believes that "smart bags" will provide significantly

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FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



greater safety in frontal crash protection, and wants to encourage both their rapid development and design flexibility. Smart bags will effectively "tailor" the deployment to the size of the occupant and the crash circumstances.

"Overall, air bags are working well and are responsible for an 11 percent reduction in driver fatalities in passenger cars, including a 30 percent reduction in fatalities in head-on crashes. They are credited with saving more than 1,500 lives since 1986 when they began appearing in the U.S. fleet," Dr. Martinez said.

Consumers who have questions or concerns about air bags should contact the agency's toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393.

—NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
11/25/96

TRANSPORTATION

PILOT AGENCIES APPROVED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN USING TRANSIT PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC/PRIVATE JOINT DEVELOPMENT

■(WASHINGTON) Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) Gordon J. Linton has announced the establishment of a pilot initiative to promote joint development projects

between public transportation agencies and the private sector, by allowing certain transit agencies to apply the income from use of federally-funded real estate to transit-related expenditures.

The four transit agencies that will participate in the pilot project are: the Washington, DC Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA); the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met), Portland, OR; the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), Atlanta; and the Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), Baltimore.

Under the Common Rule for Federal Grant Programs, public transportation agencies that sell real estate originally acquired with federal financial assistance generally must return the federal share of the sales proceeds to the U.S. Treasury. Pilot agencies will be excepted from complying with this requirement. They will now be able to sell their federally-funded real property to establish transit-oriented joint development projects, create an ongoing revenue stream or receive a one-time payment, and use the proceeds to offset transit-related expenses.

Many public transportation agencies are currently engaged in joint development projects through leases. They rent air and ground rights on their properties to private developers who build offices, retail centers, day care facilities and newsstands. The trans-

portation agencies are allowed to apply the income from such rentals to transit-related expenditures. The waivers to the common rule will provide public transit agencies greater flexibility in using and managing their real estate assets. They will be allowed to establish land sales contracts for joint development activities and to use the resulting income for transit operations, much as is already being done with rental contracts.

DOT published the individual exceptions to the Common Grant Rule in a Federal Register Notice on Oct. 7, 1996.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
11/26/96

UTILITIES

PUBLIC COMMENTS REQUESTED ABOUT BELL OPERATING COMPANIES' ENTRY INTO LONG DISTANCE

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Justice is asking all interested parties to submit position papers addressing several important questions relating to the impact of the Bell companies' entry into the long distance services market.

Joel I. Klein, Acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Department's Antitrust Division, said that the submissions would assist the Department in developing a general analytical framework for evaluating the Bell companies' applications to provide in-region long distance service.

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Department will consult with and provide comments to the Federal Communications Commission — which must give "substantial weight" to the Department's evaluation in determining whether to grant or deny any Bell Company application to provide long distance service within its region.

All interested parties are invited to address the questions outlined in the attached letter and submit their response by December 13, 1996.

The response should not exceed 25 pages, and should be submitted to Don Russell, Chief of the Telecommunications Task Force, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice, 555 4th Street, Room 8104, Washington, D.C. 20001.

—U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
11/26/96



Prefiled Bills

SB 1 Principal Author(s): Fisher, Ted V. Requires the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics to solicit proposals and award grants for pilot projects that develop and establish model programs implementing advanced science and math curriculum at local vocational-technical school sites or at local school sites via distance learning.; Emergency. Prefiled

SB 2 Principal Author(s): Fisher, Ted V. Modifies membership and powers and duties of Physical Therapy Committee. Provides for licensure of foreign-trained applicants. Requires State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to establish by rule requirements for continuing education.; Effective Date: 11/01/97. Prefiled

SB 3 Principal Author(s): Ford, Charles R.; Vaughn, Ray Prohibits policies, rules and ordinances that place a greater burden on a municipal or county officer or employee than the burden that is placed on any other person who acts to defend the person's family, home, or property.; Emergency. Prefiled

Statutory Citation Cross Reference

Title	Section	Motion	Bill	Title	Section	Motion	Bill	Title	Section	Motion	Bill
51	24.5	NEW LAW	SB 3	59	887.4	AMEND	SB 2	70	1210.404	NEW LAW	SB 1
59	887.12	AMEND	SB 2	59	887.6	AMEND	SB 2				

Bill Subject Cross Reference

CITIES & TOWNS

SB 3

COUNTIES

SB 3

EDUCATION

SB 1

PROFESSIONS & OCCUPATIONS

SB 2



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 reseeding 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

1996 Interim Studies - House

Parole. The study will also include, but not be limited to, current treatment programs that are operated by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, to include operating budgets, staffing patterns, client-staff ratios, treatment modalities and the effectiveness of programs to include improvement of negative behaviors and/or impact on recidivism; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

Interim Study 96H-23, Full Tax Exemption for Goodland Boys Home, Randall L. Erwin.

Research DHS contract policies for children's homes. Feasibility of amending tax exemption for Goodland Boys Home to 100%; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Interim Study 96H-24, Court Costs Collection, Ray Vaughn

Methods of collecting outstanding court costs and fees; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

Interim Study 96H-25, National Veterans Cemetery Site, Ron M. Kirby and Sam Helton

After pursuing legislation to create a state veterans cemetery, it has been documented that the proposed site should be a national veterans cemetery site. This will facilitate expenditures, possibly by the state, involving improvements to the actual site, entrances to and exits off of Interstate 44 or H.E. Bailey turnpike, and possible improvements to State Highway 277. All of this is contained in the National Environmental Impact Studies for the cemetery site provided by the Veterans Administration; House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

Interim Study 96H-26, Review Capital Needs of OETA, Betty Boyd

Due to age of equipment and scope of statewide services, request a review of Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) agency capital needs to address future quality transmission. Would request this study be assigned to the A&B Education Subcommittee; and **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton.** Request a joint House and Interim Study Committee to study the operational and capital needs of OETA; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education in conjunction with the Senate.

Interim Study 96H-27, Final Disposition of Hissom, Russ Roach

Joint Interim Study on the final disposition of Hissom; Assigned to a special joint committee whose members will include Roach as House chairman, along with Reps. Larry Ferguson, James Hager, Bill Mitchell, Shelby Satterfield, Mark Seikel, Bill Settle, Dwayne Steidley, Tommy Thomas and Mike Thornbrugh.

Interim Study 96H-28, Managed Care, Tommy Thomas, Randall Erwin

To discuss implementation of managed care in the rural portions of Oklahoma; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

Interim Study 96H-29, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Randy Beutler, Terry Matlock

The purpose of this study is to discuss and review the rules promulgated by the Department of Agriculture on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This proposal would be the subject of a joint study by the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate interim study to be chaired by Sen. Lewis Long; Joint study of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

Interim Study 96H-30, Early Childhood, Joe Eddins

Study the needs and programs available for low income children age 3 through 6, with special emphasis on 3 and 4 year old children in Head Start, 4 & 5 year old children in public schools, and 6 year old children in transition first grade. How Title I money is used for these in extended day or full day programs; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-31, CASA, Randall Erwin

To research all aspects of CASA including needs, merits, and possible funding; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

Interim Study 96H-32, Study of Community Action Agencies, Randall Erwin

Study the feasibility of the agencies merging with the State Insurance Department. Research on the impact of joint state retirement and insurance benefits; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

Interim Study 96H-33, Federal Discharge Permits and Concentrated Animal Feed Yard Operations, Elmer Maddux

Examination of requirements for state assumption of federal N.P.D.E.S. program for agricultural jurisdictional areas (State Department of Agriculture) and concentrated animal feeding operations; House Agriculture Committee.

Interim Study 96H-34, Ad Valorem, James Hager

Examine issues related to revision of the ad valorem funding system for schools and governmental entities; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education; Agriculture Committee.

Interim Study 96H-35, Education - Residency, James Hager

Study issues relating to student residency for school purposes; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-36, Education - Common Education, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma common education system including issues related to curriculum; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-37, Education - Vo-Tech, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's vocational technical education system; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-38, Education - Higher Education, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's Higher Education System; Education Committee

Interim Study 96H-39, Health Insurance Issues, Betty Boyd

A study to determine what new medical procedures and/or equipment should be included in health insurance coverage and attendant fiscal impact; House Committee on Insurance.

Interim Study 96H-40, Implementation of HCR1108, Abe Deutschendorf

As a follow-up to the passage of HCR1108, study will review reports requested from each state agency. HCR1108 directed each agency to submit a report/plan identifying millennium computer conversion problems brought into place by the year 2000. This study will begin in November after the agencies have submitted their reports. Hopefully this early study can help the state to save a great deal of money; and **Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry.** Exploration aspects of problem acknowledged by HCR1108; House Committee on Science and Technology.

Interim Study 96H-41, Reading Programs in Oklahoma, Abe Deutschendorf, Jack Begley

Study the successful reading programs in Oklahoma. This study proposal includes site visits to schools with outstanding reading programs successes. In addition a study of Reading Remediation Programs of exemplary success. This study will shed some light on some little known new insight to the age old question, "How best does a child learn Read;" Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-42, Family Centered and Community Designed Services, Sean Voskuhl

Determine appropriate methods for coordinated delivery of family and early childhood development services; House Committee on Children, Youth and Family Services.

Interim Study 96H-43, Ostrich and Emu Processing Facilities, Bob Ed Culver

Study the creating and financing of ostrich meat processing and tanning facilities and of emu meat processing and oil extraction facilities. Review the experience of such facilities in the surrounding states; Agriculture Committee

Interim Study 96H-44, Review or Joint Rules, Dwayne Steidley, Don Kinnamon

Requesting a joint special committee to review procedures in the joint rules which relate to deadlines and other matters that impact the flow of legislation between the two houses; Assigned to a special joint committee whose House members are Benson, Adair, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Hamilton, Hilliard, Rice Thomas, Toure, Kinnamon and Steidley.

1996 Interim Studies - House

Interim Study 96H-45, Chiropractic Services, Charles Gray

Review issues relating to chiropractic services including: (1) any willing provider laws; (2) prescription authority; (3) minor surgery; (4) other relevant concerns; Public Health Committee.

Interim Study 96H-46, Local Control of Community Services, Sean Voskuhl

Review of the issues included in HB2231; Youth and Family Services Committee.

Interim Study 96H-47, Revision of Title 43A, Mental Health Code, Joe Eddins

Continuation of the 1995 study, to complete the revision and updating of the title; Mental Health Committee.

Interim Study 96H-48, Predatory Sex Offender, Bill Paulk

Study to review Predatory Sex Offender laws (per HB2617); Criminal Justice Committee.

Interim Study 96H-49, Truth in Sentencing, Bill Paulk

Truth in Sentencing (as per final draft by Rep. Steidley) and **Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley**

A Special Joint study to evaluate the community corrections recommendations provided in SB1200 and truth in sentencing proposals in HB1138. Purpose is to propose a new bill for 1997 session; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Steidley, Paulk and Reps. Jari Askins, Flint Breckenridge, Bob Ed Culver, Danny Hilliard, Larry Rice, Bill Settle and Opio Toure.

Interim Study 96H-50, Motor Vehicles and Insurance, Jack Bonny

Review insurance and financial responsibility requirements for motor vehicles; Public Safety Committee.

Interim Study 96H-51, Resource Centers, Mark Seikel

Study on the status and impact of downsizing on Northern Resource Center and Greer Center Facility at Enid and Southern Resource Center of Pauls Valley; Human Services Committee.

Interim Study 96H-52, Ritualistic Child Abuse, Mark Seikel

Study to review prohibiting Ritualistic Child Abuse with DHS, Youth & Family and Criminal Justice; Human Services Committee.

Interim Study 96H-53, Corporation Commission Jurisdiction in Guymon-Hugoton Field, Larry Rice

To review the relevancy of the Guymon-Hugoton field rules to current field conditions. Topics to be addressed include infill drilling and proration limits; Assigned to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy.

Interim Study 96H-54, Public Trusts and Tax Exempt Financing, Robert Weaver

Interim study to discuss the disclosure and accountability requirements surrounding Public Trusts and tax exempt financing; Banking and Finance Committee.

Interim Study 96H-55, Inmate Trust Accounts, Robert Weaver

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of exploring funding options for the victims of crime in Oklahoma. The study should address inmate trust accounts and other funding options; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

Interim Study 96H-56, Jet Ski and Boating Legislation, Robert Weaver

Interim study pursuant to HCR1110 regarding jet ski and boating legislation, requesting coordination with specified state agencies and proposing legislation; Public Safety Committee.

Interim Study 96H-57, OK Indian Affairs Commission Funding, Robert Weaver

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of various Indian tribes in the State of Oklahoma contributing to the funding of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

Interim Study 96H-58, Recreational Vehicle Tags, Fred Perry

Study to discuss recreational vehicle tag costs and taxes; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry

Combined with Interim Study 96H-40.

Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton

Combined with Interim Study 96H-26.

Interim Study 96H-61, Feasibility of constructing a State Office Building, James E. Hamilton

Identify space being rented in Oklahoma City area by state agencies or Higher Education, determine the amount of annual lease and rent payments being made for such space and investigate the possibility of building one or two new buildings in the Capitol Complex and use rent money for pay out of bond issue; Appropriations and Budget.

Interim Study 96H-62, Sole Source Contract Procedures, James E. Hamilton

To review Sole Source contract procedures involving state agencies and higher education, and to review the Fuelman contract now being administered through the Department of Central Services; Appropriations and Budget.

Interim Study 96H-63, State Banking Regulatory Fees, Abe Deutschendorf, Bob Weaver

A comparative view of charges assessed to the credit unions and banks as it relates to the State Banking regulatory fees; Banking and Finance Committee.

Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley

Combined with Interim Study 96H-49.

Interim Study 96H-65, Workers' Comp, Chris Hastings

Evaluate the performance of the recent works' comp reform (special session 1994) in relation to its impact on insurance rates and safety programs and results. Look at further reforms in workers' comp to reduce rates; lower risks; and increase safety; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Rep Don Kinnamon, chairman; House Majority Leader Loyd Benson, House Majority Leader Larry Ferguson, Rep. Don McCorkell and Rep Bill Settle.

Interim Study 96H-66, Rules of Conduct, Chris Hastings

Set-up bipartisan committee to outline and create Rules of Conduct on House floor by members / staff / guests; House Committee on Rules.

Interim Study 96H-67, OK Housing Finance Agency, Chris Hastings

Review whether the Oklahoma House Finance Agency (OHFA) is acting in compliance in monitoring and enforcing the rules under the IRS Code under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program; Appropriations and Budget.

Interim Study 96H-68, State Insurance Fund, Chris Hastings

Explore the possibility of privatizing the State Insurance Fund; Assigned to a special committee consisting of Kinnamon as chairman, Benson, Hastings, McCorkell, Settle and Reps. Howard Cotner and Fred Morgan.

Interim Study 96H-69, Funding for Aids Research, Don Ross

Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

Interim Study 96H-70, Impact of Prevention and/or Intervention Programs, Don Ross

The impact of prevention and/or intervention as they relate to Oklahoma's delinquency and youth gang intervention and deterrence grant program; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

1996 Interim Studies - Senate

Interim Study 96S-004, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair, Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Mike Fair, Keith Leftwich, Angela Monson, Ben Robinson, Mark Snyder and Dick Wilkerson.

Interim Study 96S-006, Weather Modification

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Paul Muegge. Senate Members: Senate Agriculture Committee.

Interim Study 96S-007, Department of Agriculture, Transfer of Forestry Division

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Rick Littlefield. Senate Members: Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services.

Interim Study 96S-014, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co Chair Sen. Jerry Smith. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Billy Mickle and Herb Rozell.

Interim Study 96S-027, Possible Uses and Sales Opportunities for Hissom Center

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Larry Dickerson, Mike Fair, Jerry Smith and Penny Williams.

Interim Study 96S-029, State Department of Agriculture Rules on Testing for Equine Infectious Anemia

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Paul Muegge.

Interim Study 96S-042, Family Centered and Community Designed Services

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Penny Williams. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Ted Fisher, Angela Monson and Ged Wright. Non-legislative Members: Ken Lackey, Human Services Cabinet Secretary (ex officio); Tom Kemper, Director, OCCY (ex officio); Bill Doenges, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Ann Johnstone, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Dan Arthrell, Coordinator, Children First; Sharon Terry, Director, Tulsa Youth Services; Anne Roberts, Executive Director, Oklahoma Child Advocate; Karen Rhoads; Sandy Ingraham; Cindy Seay, NE Oklahoma Regional Advisory Board for Children with Special Needs; Barbara Parker; Pat Chambliss; Judge D. Post; Dave King, Executive Director, Wings of Freedom Women's Facility of the Correctional Counseling Institute; and Phil Rhoades.

Interim Study 96S-064, Truth in Sentencing

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Larry Dickerson. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Herb Rozell and Ged Wright.

Interim Study 96S-101, Agriculture Product Processing

Assigned to Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Paul Muegge, Chairman.

Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism Infrastructure

Assigned to Appropriation Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services, Sen. Rick Littlefield, Chairman.

Interim Study 96S-103, Law Enforcement Policy Study

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Sam Helton, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Keith Leftwich. Non-legislative Members: Bob Ricks, Commissioner of DPS; Malcolm Atwood, Dir. of BNDD; DeWade Langley, Dir. of OSBI; Captain Steve Cain, Norman PD; Kenny Stradley, Comanche Co. Sheriff; Asst. Chief Ron Ward, Lawton PD; Lt. Melvin Murdock, Lawton PD; Chief Sam Gonzolas, OKC Chief of Police; Chief Ron Palmer, Tulsa Chief of Police; Dep. Chief Lawrence Johnson, OKC PD.

Interim Study 96S-104, Daytime Use of Auto Headlights

Senate General Government Committee plus Senator Mark Snyder. Chair Sen. Trish Weedn.

Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Ben Brown, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Bernest Cain, Brooks Douglass, Howard Hendrick, Carol Martin and Ben Robinson.

Interim Study 96S-106, Interest Rates on Small Loans

Senate Deregulation Committee. Sen. Herb Rozell, Chairman.

Interim Study 96S-107, Motor Carrier Registration and Enforcement

Senate Transportation Committee. Sen. Gene Stipe, Chairman.

Interim Study 96S-108, Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Oversight Committee

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Penny Williams, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Howard Hendrick, Maxine Horner, Ed Long and Trish Weedn.

Interim Study 96S-110, Turnpikes

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Keith Leftwich. Senate Members: Sens. Bill Gustafson, Brad Henry, Dave Herbert, Cal Hobson, Bruce Price and Mark Snyder.

Interim Study 96S-111, Capitol Funding Needs

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Charles Ford, Howard Hendrick, Cal Hobson, Rick Littlefield, Billy Mickle, Ben Robinson, Jerry Smith and Don Williams.

State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
672	363			"BOOST" Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers 6-30-95	<p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Article deals with gambling. The new Article legalizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slot machines and roulette, Craps, keno and video gambling All gambling played with cards, dice, mechanical devices or computers, and Other forms of gambling. <p>For the first five years there could only be four non-Indian gambling facilities. Those facilities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remington Park Racetrack 2. Blue Ribbon Downs Racetrack 3. A facility in Tulsa, and 4. A facility in Love County. <p>An appointed Commission would regulate and license this gambling. After five years, other gambling facilities could be licensed. There could not be more than one facility in any county. Gambling facilities would have to meet minimum standards.</p> <p>The measure opens the door for Indian tribes to engage in the new forms of gambling. The measure would allow Indian tribes to request an agreement to operate a gambling casino. State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling. The State could not tax Indian gambling.</p> <p>The measure makes gambling debts incurred at authorized casinos legal and enforceable.</p> <p>State taxes on the new gambling would fund the Commission, and help education prisons. Some tax funds would go to local governments where State licensed gambling is conducted.</p>	Okayed by Supreme Court on Nov. 5, 1996 to be placed on ballot

State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
673	364			Joe Windes 9-29-95	<p>This measure amends the State Constitution. The amendment instructs State legislators. The amendment instructs legislators to request a National Constitutional Convention. The Convention would occur if thirty-four states request it. There has never been such a Convention. There are many unanswered questions about such a Convention's limits, membership and powers.</p> <p>The Convention's purpose is the setting of congressional term limits. This would be by proposing an Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Amendment would become law if thirty-eight states approved it.</p> <p>The suggested term limits would limit members of the United States House Representatives to three terms of office. Each House term is a two-year term. The suggested term limits would limit a United States Senator to two terms of office. Each Senate term is a six-year term.</p> <p>A notice would tell voters when a legislator failed to request a Convention. This notice would be on election ballots. The notice would be next to a legislator's name. The ballot notice would appear when an incumbent legislator sought a legislative office.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, December 2, 1996

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 9:30 | Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular meeting
Okla. Dept. of Wildlife Auditorium, First Floor, 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City |
| <hr/> | |
| 10:00 | State Board of Equalization
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room |
| <hr/> | |
| | Joint Task Force on the Prevention of Genetic Discrimination
State Capitol, Room 412-A |
| <hr/> | |
| 11:00 | Oklahoma Transportation Commission
200 NE 21 St., Commission Room, 1st Floor, Oklahoma City |
| <hr/> | |
| 1:00 | Senate Wildlife Committee
Groendyke Lodge, Lake Hellums Road, NW of Enid |
| <hr/> | |
| 2:00 | House Interim Study 96H-17, Defining Public Utility Central vs Local Assessment for Public Utility Property Taxation
State Capitol, Room 432-A |
| <hr/> | |
| 8:00 p.m. | Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Special Meeting
Groendyke Lodge, Lake Hellums Road, NW of Enid |

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7:30 | Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Special meeting, continued from Monday evening
Groendyke Lodge, Lake Hellums Road, NW of Enid |
| <hr/> | |
| 9:00 | Joint State Government Internal Affairs Investigation Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 512-A |
| <hr/> | |
| 9:30 | Oklahoma Commission for Human Services
Room 214, Sequoyah Office Bldg., Oklahoma City |
| <hr/> | |
| 10:00 | Joint State-Tribal Relations Committee
State Capitol, Room 419-C |
| <hr/> | |
| 1:30 | Senate Interim Study 96S-111, Capital Funding Needs
Second Floor Boardroom of Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City |

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Wednesday, December 4, 1996

10:00 **Joint Interim Study 96-4, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance**
State Capitol, Room 412-C

Thursday, December 5, 1996

10:00 **Senate Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism & Recreation Infrastructure Funding Needs**
State Capitol, Room 419-C

Monday, December 9, 1996

1:00 **Joint Interim Committee on Welfare Reform (O.S. 74-456.2)**
State Capitol, Room 512-A

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

9:00 **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Thursday, December 12, 1996

1:00 **Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Prep**
Dyer Room, Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City

2:00 **House Interim Study 96H-21, Administrative Rules**
State Capitol, Room 412-C

Friday, December 13, 1996

10:00 **War Veterans Commission**
Conference Room, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, Oklahoma City

1:00 **Board of Corrections**
Lexington Correctional Center, Lexington, OK

Tuesday, December 17, 1996

10:00 **Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln, Suite 114, Oklahoma City

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Thursday, December 19, 1996

- 9:00** **Horse Racing Commission**
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City
-
- 10:00** **Senate Energy Administration Reform Task Force**
Per SB 911
University Center at Tulsa/Rogers State College, BS Robert Room, North Hall, Tulsa

Friday, December 20, 1996

- 10:00** **Ethics Commission**
Public Hearing followed by regular meeting
Auditorium of the Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City
-
- Fire Marshal Commission**
4545 Lincoln Blvd., Suite 280, Oklahoma City

Monday, December 30, 1996

- 10:00** **Board of Equalization**
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room, Oklahoma City

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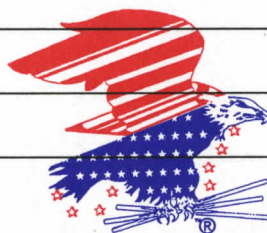
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"Thanksgiving Day and the sports computer went crazy." *ross*

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