

Capitol Network News

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

Daily Edition, Tuesday, November 26, 1996

Happy Thanksgiving from Everyone at Capitol Network News

SENATE RELEASES WORKERS' COMP REVIEW

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(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 fi-

nal 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

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STATE LAWMAKERS STUDY NATIONAL CEMETERY

By Brandon R. Webb
Staff Writer

■(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.

Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, who requested the interim study, was unable to attend due to the death of his father on Monday. Sadler, joined by Rep. Bill Case, R-Midwest City, Rep. Danny Hilliard, D-Sulphur and Rep. Dale Wells, D-Cushing gathered to inquire about access roads to the cemetery.

Department of Transportation represen-

tative 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

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OCC RAISES GAS PRODUCTION ALLOWABLE TO 65%

From Oklahoma Corporation
Commission

■(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.

Oklahoma oil and gas production has been regulated since 1915, when the Legislature passed the Oil and Gas Conservation Act to prevent waste of hydrocarbon reserves by excessive production. Production allowables have been revised by statute several times in relation to market demand for Oklahoma gas. Authority to set gas production allowables was delegated to the Corporation Commission in 1993. Present commission rules require the review and setting of allowables on a quarterly basis.

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 Pe-

troleum 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.

Marathon Oil Co. recommended a production allowable of 65 percent or 1.5 million cubic feet of gas per day. Amoco Exploration and Production Co. recommended an increase to at least 60 percent or 1.5 million cubic feet.

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.

Cemetery, continued from page 1

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.

"Work done on Jake Dunn Road and U.S. 277 would be the most economical," Rose said. "A ballpark figure for a simple overlay of Jake Dunn would be around \$150,000. Grading and drainage improvements could cost upwards of \$450,000."

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 proposed 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.

Workers' Comp, cont. from page 1

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 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.

It is in many of the areas recognized by the Senate staff study that Fallin's commission plans to make improvements — "fine tuning," as she said during a recent meeting of the commission. Fallin has said repeatedly that she formed the commission after hearing complaints, particularly concerning costs, about the system from industry leaders.

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

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"No amount of charters, direct primaries, or short ballots will make a democracy out of an illiterate people."

Walter Lippmann
"Revolution and Culture"
A Preface to Politics
1914

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS CONFUSED

From State Insurance Commissioner

■(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."

Crawford's office is monitoring the case to make sure the outcome is as equitable as 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."

A few of the qualifying deeds of misconduct, according to the Prudential packet are:

- Churning — needlessly selling existing policyholders new policies to generate a new sale and the attendant higher commissions new sales yield.

- Misrepresenting the benefits associated with certain policies.

- Misrepresenting the number of premiums that will have to be paid before the policy is paid for, also known as "vanishing premium."

- A life insurance policy was wrongly characterized as solely an investment or savings vehicle rather than a life insurance policy.

Prudential and independent, court-ap-

pointed 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. They will follow a court-approved formula for determining the amount of relief due the policyholder.

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.

The initial mailing describes the three remedies available to policyholders, including two arising from the court case and a third hammered out among 43 state insurance commissioners including Crawford.

The primary reason for the state commissioner-led remedy is to assure that another avenue exists if the court case becomes bogged down, the Commissioner said.

KEATING GRABS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(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 unselect all of us."

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

The governor's comments did little to allay the fears of Senate President Pro Tem-

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SMALL INVESTMENTS IN HEALTH CARE YIELD BIG PAYOFFS

From U.S. Dept. of Health
& Human Services

■(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.

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.

"Models That Work offers good sense, big payoff solutions for communities wanting to improve health care services, save dollars and create jobs," Deputy Secretary Thurm said. "These programs exemplify the best in local problem solving to meet local needs—we want to multiply these successes."

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.

"These Models That Work break the cycle," said Ciro Sumaya, M.D., M.P.H.T.M., administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the HHS agency primarily responsible for putting health care services and professionals in underserved areas and sponsor of the Models That Work campaign.

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 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

See *Health Care*, page 5

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

From U.S. Dept. of Justice

■(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.

"This process is extremely important," said Klein, "and we want to get as much input and provide as much guidance as possible."

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.

Klein further commented that, once the Department has developed its approach to considering the various applications, he intends to explain publicly the Department's analytical framework in order to set out under what conditions the Department will support Bell entry into long distance services.

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.

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pore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, and other members of the Democratic Party, who criticized the governor for what Taylor called "frequent personal attacks" on incumbent Democrats and his involvement in raising funds "to help bankroll campaign attack ads" against those incumbents.

Said Taylor, "Oklahoma needs a statesman, not the partisan attack dog we've seen for the past year and a half."

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

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■(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.

"These select waivers to the Common Grant Rule will help transit agencies improve their revenues and support transit-oriented development which will provide better service for transit passengers," said Linton.

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 transportation 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.

Health Care, cont. from page 4

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.

The program was developed at the HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care. "This is part of our effort to be a 'catalyst' for new primary care delivery sites," said Marilyn Gaston, M.D., assistant surgeon general and BPHC director.

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.

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

From Environmental Protection Agency

■(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.

"Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist . . . It is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil."

*John Maynard Keynes
The General Theory of Employment,
Interest and Money
1936*

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

From U.S. Dept. of Education

(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

"These grants will help give young people the practical workforce skills and academic knowledge they need to build promising futures," said President Clinton. "School to Work is a sound investment in our youth and our economy."

"School to Work means learning for the future," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. "It expands education opportunities and career options for students by connecting academic achievement and on the job success, and makes lifelong learning a lifetime habit."

"School to Work is an investment in the future of our young people and in America," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich. "By linking the classroom to the world of work, we are helping students develop the skills they need for successful careers. At the same time, we are training a highly skilled workforce to ensure America's

competitiveness in the world economy."

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 students; 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.

The School to Work Opportunities Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 1994, sunsets in the year 2001 and is jointly administered by the Departments of Education and Labor. School to Work links school improvement with workforce and economic development. It engages students, parents, educators, schools, businesses, labor organizations and communities in designing and implementing a high quality education that integrates challenging academic curricula

and preparation for careers — and reflects local employment opportunities and sources of education and training.

For example, 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.

The real success of School to Work is measured in people like Marsha Dennis, who was in the 11th grade when she entered Boston's ProTech program, a youth apprenticeship School to Work partnership of 10 area hospitals, the Boston Public Schools and the Private Industry Council. While attending English High School and Bunker Hill Community College, she also worked with a mentor as an assistant in a hospital surgery department and a medical library. Now a surgical technician, Dennis credits School to Work with giving her an opportunity to apply what she learned and begin a successful career.

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.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY PLANS

From The White House

■(WASHINGTON) White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, briefing reporters in Manila, said President Clinton will go to Camp David soon after returning to Washington Nov. 27. The schedule calls for the President's return at about 9 a.m. EST on Wednesday. He is expected to remain at Camp David until Sunday, Dec. 1.

As for events at the White House the morning of Nov. 27, McCurry told reporters, "We've got the event with the turkey in the morning, and he'll probably have some discussions with his transition staff before he heads off" for Camp David. The turkey event is the annual presentation to the White House of a Thanksgiving turkey by the turkey growers association; the bird normally winds up with a presidential pardon for Thanksgiving and a new home at a petting farm in Virginia.

"When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, you think it's only a minutes. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute, you think it's two hours. That's Relativity."

Albert Einstein

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

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 |
| 10:00 | State Board of Equalization
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room |
| 11:00 | Oklahoma Transportation Commission
200 NE 21 St., Commission Room, 1st Floor, Oklahoma City |
| 1:00 | Senate Wildlife Committee
Groendyke Lodge, Lake Hellums Road, NW of Enid |
| 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 |
| 9:00 | Joint State Government Internal Affairs Investigation Review Committee
State Capitol, Room 512-A |
| 9:30 | Oklahoma Commission for Human Services
Room 214, Sequoyah Office Bldg., Oklahoma City |
| 10:00 | Joint State-Tribal Relations Committee
State Capitol, Room 419-C |
| 1:30 | Senate Interim Study 96S-111, Capital Funding Needs
Second Floor Boardroom of Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City |

Thursday, December 5, 1996

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| 10:00 | Senate Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism & Recreation Infrastructure Funding Needs
State Capitol, Room 419-C |
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Tuesday, December 10, 1996

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00 | Commissioners of the Land
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room |
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Calendar of Meetings & Events

Thursday, December 12, 1996

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

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

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

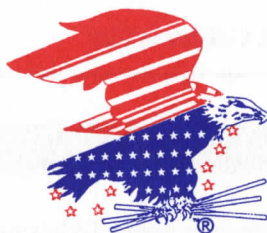


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