

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Committee will be led by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa. Henry takes over the post vacated by Bernice Shedrick when she resigned from the Senate, while Williams' appointment comes on the heels of committee chairman Ed Long's defeat during the Nov. 5 general election.

The appointments were made by President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore.

As chair of the committee, Henry will oversee legislation relating to civil laws and most constitutional amendments. The panel is also responsible for bills dealing with the state judicial system and pension programs.

"I'm very honored to have this opportunity to take on yet another challenge in the state Senate," Henry said, "and look forward to working with the public and fellow lawmakers as we strive to develop policies and legislation that will protect our citizens and continue to strengthen our great state."

As chair of the Education Committee, Williams will lead the panel through its work on bills dealing with common education, higher education and vocational-technical education.

"We need to renew and strengthen our commitment to public education to create a dramatically greater range of educational choices for students and parents," Williams said. "We've made some great strides in education in just the past few years, but we have to continue those efforts if our children are truly going to be ready for the challenges of the 21st Century."

Henry and Williams will assume their duties as committee chairs following their swearing in on Tuesday.

Other Senate committee members will remain unchanged, including:

- Appropriations: Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole
- Agriculture and Rural Development: Paul Muegge, D-Tonkawa;
- Business and Labor: Lewis Long, D-

Glenpool;

- Deregulation: Herb Rozell, D-Tahlequah;

- Economic Development: Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa;

- Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs, Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow;

- Finance: Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood;

- General Government: Trish Weedn, D-Purcell;

- Government Operations and Agency Oversight: Maxine Horner, D-Tulsa;

- Human Resources: Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City;

- Rules: Robert Kerr, D-Altus;

- Sunset Review: J. Berry Harrison, D-Fairfax;

- Tourism and Recreation: Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City;

- Transportation: Gene Stipe, D-McAlester;

- Veterans and Military Affairs: Sam Helton, D-Lawton; and

- Wildlife: Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta.

The futures of the Infrastructure and Strategic Planning Committee, formerly chaired by Williams, and the Science, Technology and Telecommunications, which was previously chaired by Jack Bell, who lost his reelection bid in the August primary, have not yet been determined.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
11/18/96

## SENATOR FISHER FILES 46TH LEGISLATURE'S FIRST BILLS

■(GIT) Sapulpa's Democratic Sen. Ted Fisher laid claim to the Senate's first and second bill numbers Friday by prefiling two pieces of legislation.

SB1 would create a new section of law that would require 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 vo-tech or school sites by distance learning. The bill would also create an advisory council made up of local superintendents to establish student participation criteria in such pilot programs, determining the curriculum needs and to work in the recruitment and hiring of faculty for the pilot program, all in conjunction with the School of Science and Mathematics.

The bill carries an emergency clause.

SB2, which has a proposed Nov. 1, 1997 effective date, would increase the membership of the Physical Therapy Committee from three to five and would require that foreign-trained applicants for a license to practice physical therapy or as an assistant to a physical therapist would have to satisfy the State Board of Medical Licensure that they have completed the necessary education and training. The bill would also require the licensure board to establish a program of continuing education for physical therapists and their assistants.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
11/18/96

## ELECTION BOARD CERTIFIES FINAL RESULTS

■(GIT)The State Election Board certified the results of the final two races from the Nov. 5 general election on Monday, setting the stage for the swearing-in Tuesday of all the 46th Legislature's members.

At issue were the results in House District 21, where incumbent Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, defeated Curt Roggow, R-Enid, and Senate District 41, where Mike Morgan, D-Stillwater, defeated Randy Wedel, R-Stillwater.

Decisions were reached last week in challenges of those results filed by Roggow and Wedel, respectively, clearing the way for the election board to certify the results as final Monday.

Roggow had requested a recount of the ballots cast in the three counties in the district and also alleged irregularities in some of the votes cast for Voskuhl. In the recount, Voskuhl actually gained seven votes, while Roggow's total was unaffected, giving the incumbent an 18-vote advantage over his opponent.

In a ruling issued last Wednesday, Roggow's irregularities allegations were dismissed.

The situation was similar in Senate District 21, where Wedel alleged voting irregularities. A Lincoln County judge agreed with Wedel on some of the ballots identified in his filing, but it was not enough to overcome the 32-vote difference by which Morgan originally won the contest.

Roggow and Wedel could have appealed those decisions to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
11/18/96

*"Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of other persons."*

Mark Twain  
Notebooks  
later 19th century