

Oklahoma State Senate

April 5, 2010

Senate Review by Gary Stanislawski

This past week we finished consideration of House bills in our Senate committees and returned to the Floor full time this week to begin work on those measures that made it out of committee. We have until Thursday, April 22 to take action on House bills in the Senate.

I had six House bills (HB 2545, 2566, 2615, 2641, 2671 & 2747) approved the last two weeks of the committee process.

HB 2545 is a taxpayer transparency bill which requires the Oklahoma Tax Commission to prepare and maintain a list of all taxable entities who have claimed a tax credit, including tax credits for a qualified investment in a small business capital company or a rural small business capital company, including the entities' addresses, amount of credits, and the statutory provision whereby the credit was claimed. The amendment also requires such information to be subject to the Open Records Act.

HB 2566 is the annual appropriation of federal Reed Act Distribution funds for Oklahoma Employment Security Commission programs. The total appropriation is approximately \$11 million, about \$4.5 million for the Employment Service Program and \$6.5 million for the Unemployment Insurance Program, to be used before December 31, 2011. These are all federal dollars which were returned to the state in 2002. There is no state revenue involved.

HB 2615 allows HUD homes which are currently exempt from ad valorem taxation to refinance their properties and remain exempt from ad valorem taxation.

HB 2641 provides beginning in tax year 2011 that any state tax credit based on an expenditure to acquire tangible personal property will be reduced in an amount equal to any federal tax credit for the same expenditure. This bill helps to reduce the double tax credits for items.

HB 2671 extends the age limit for whom benefit certificates (burial policies) may be issued through a mutual benefit association from 65 to 72 years.

HB 2747 allows any teacher who became certified to teach elementary or early childhood education, prior to July 1, 2010, to be certified in early childhood or elementary education upon

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meeting the requirements provided in law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area portion of the certification examination by July 1, 2012. Any teacher who becomes certified to teach through an accredited teacher preparation program or becomes alternatively certified through the Troops to Teachers program prior to July 1, 2010, may be certified in special education upon meeting the requirements provided in law and successful completion of the appropriate subject area portion of the examination by July 1, 2012. The State Board of Education shall establish a core minimum of six semester hours or 90 clock hours for the professional education component of an alternative placement program.

If you have a question or comment about state government, you can contact me by writing to Senator Gary Stanislawski, Room 427A, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Or you can call me at (405) 521-5624.