

# Oklahoma State Senate

March 5, 2010

## *Senate Review by Gary Stanislowski*

The fifth week of session is underway. Last week was the first week of consideration of bills on the floor. SB 2073 deals with how insurance companies often restrict information from insurance agents that sold a policy to a policy owner. If the insurance agent does not sell enough policies the insurance company often terminates the relationship with the agent. This is fine, but an unintended consequence is that this often hurts policy owners because agents cannot collect information from the insurance company to do a proper review with the client.

My bill requires the State Department of Insurance to create a standardized form that clients can sign and fax into the insurance companies which will allow the agent to continue to represent the client and obtain policy data. This would primarily deal with Life insurance, Long term care insurance and annuities.

We had some interesting bills approved this past week.

SB 2330 would give local empowerment to education professionals. This is a voluntary measure that gives an individual school or a group of schools the opportunity to opt out of programs or state unfunded mandates within their given districts. By opting out, this allows them to save money or maximize the education experience.

Once a plan is agreed upon by the local educational professionals, which includes teachers and the administration, the plan is then submitted to the local school board and then on to the State Department of Education for final approval. If approved, the school district will implement the plan and will be subject to a review at the end of three years to verify the desired results are being obtained.

**(more)**

Another bill was passed to help improve Oklahoma's education system specifically our graduation rates. SB 2139 was passed unanimously. Currently, on average only 75 of 100 Oklahoma freshman complete high school. The bill creates a formula for schools to set new graduation targets. Those schools would be given two years to meet those goals. Schools unable to meet their graduation goal will receive assistance from the State Department of Education to develop and implement a plan to improve graduation rates. This an important measure in that it affects every community in the state. Students that aren't able to finish high school and get their diploma are very rarely able to climb out of poverty. If we could find a way to keep these students in school and get their diploma and then encourage them to go to college or a career tech, we'd see billions more dollars pumped into our economy than what we have today.

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 us at (405) 521-5624.

If you no longer wish to receive weekly emails please respond to this message by typing remove in the subject line