

**State of Oklahoma
House of Representatives**

**Weekly Wrap
February 21-24, 2011**

Representative Jeannie McDaniel

Third Week of Session

The third week of session finds our House floor calendar growing longer each day. Next week is the last week bills originated in the House can be heard in committee. This is a busy time for us to finish up our committee hearings (only hearings on House bills in the House) and moving our bills onto the House floor calendar. News reports have focused on bills that would result in major changes in our pension &/retirement systems (including judges, teachers, police & fire, plus state and municipal workers), changes for common education and access to reproductive services and medical research. Additionally, there are still bills to be heard on firearms, immigration and much more.

Your emails and calls have been very helpful! The link below will connect you to the House floor calendar for us to consider next week. These are the bills that have been voted out of committee and have been placed on the calendar for our consideration to pass to the Senate. Please use this link if you want to listen or see where we are each day.

<http://www.okhouse.gov/FloorAgenda/Default.aspx>

You will note that the first 7 bills on the Floor calendar deal with Pensions and Retirement. There is a description beside each bill that gives you the Title of the bill and a brief overview. You can read the entire bill and amendments by placing your cursor on those #s. Please contact me if you have input or questions. The best way to reach me is through this email address. We have access to our email as we sit on the House floor conducting business.

For the most part just few bills have passed off the House floor. The bill impacting all employees who have public pension systems passed yesterday.

HB2132 – Truth in Funding Act; Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act

It is my understanding that this bill will require the Legislature to approve any Cost-of-Living Adjustments henceforth and the source for the costs is identified from outside the retirement fund. This bill now goes to the Senate.

Bills that may hold interest for you and your families that have come out of committees:

HB1665 Art in Public Places – would impose a 3 year moratorium that requires a 1.5% cost of all publically funded projects go towards “public art”.

HB1045 – New penalty for uninsured motorists – would prohibit uninsured drivers from being able to sue for “pain and suffering” damages after an accident. Limit the amount of medical costs, property damage, and lost income. Exemption for situations where an uninsured driver is hit by a drunk driver or if the uninsured motorist was a passenger in a wreck.

HJR1001 – would impose a permanent freeze on property tax levels for seniors over 65 for as long as they own their homes

HJR1002 – would allow OK citizens to vote to impose a 3% annual cap that would limit future property tax increases.

HB1746 – would require school districts to spend 65% of total yearly expenditures on direct instructional activities – phased in annually through 2014-2015.

HB1457 – legislation to simplify and speed up the process for administrators to remove teachers from the classroom without high costs of litigation. The language provides a hearing before a panel instead of a trial.

HB1456 – would give every public school in the state an annual grade of “A” to “F” based on student performance on state tests. The legislation is based on a similar plan in FL.

HB1226 – would ensure Oklahomans who lose property due to a city or other authority’s use of eminent domain have the right to buy back any part of the property that goes unused.

HB2002- Legislation to require OK assisted living facilities with 50 or more beds to have a backup generator for emergency power.

Below is a list of bills regarding women’s reproductive rights that passed out of committee. Here is the link for the full content these bills. Please read them through and we can discuss them.

This link will take you to the bill. <http://www.okhouse.gov/>

Or, you can read them when they are on the floor calendar.

HB1888- Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection

HB1642- Increase regulatory oversight of abortion providers.

HB1442 – Destructive Human Embryo Research Act

HB1170 – Certain drugs

Some of you have emailed regarding Senate bills – and I must tell you – these bills will not be heard in our committees until later in March. There are many bills of interest that the news media highlights but remember – we still have 3 months of work ahead! This is just the beginning!