



**Oklahoma Works Partners Conference**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Legislative Update**



# Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD)

Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC) became the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title 1 Grant Recipient Agency and the State WIOA Title 1 Administrative Agency in June 2015.

The Office of Workforce Solutions at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce transferred to OSU-OKC and was renamed the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development (OOWD).

By shifting workforce to the Education Secretary's portfolio this new structure and leadership demonstrate Oklahoma's renewed commitment to align education with workforce development.

In Oklahoma, the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development (GCWED), the WIOA State Board governs, manages, and accounts for the way the state issues Department of Labor WIOA monies.





OOWD tracks state legislation to identify how it may impact Oklahoma's Workforce system.

**Disclaimer:** OOWD does not advocate for nor support any of the proposed legislation presented here today. This is purely for informational purposes.



# The Oklahoma Legislature

- Oklahoma's legislature is a bicameral state legislature meaning that it is made up of 2 chambers: the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate.
- The Oklahoma House of Representatives is composed of 101 representatives who serve 2 year terms.
- The Oklahoma Senate is composed of 48 Senators who serve 4 year terms that are staggered so only half of the Oklahoma Senate districts are eligible in each election year.
- The legislature exercise legislative power by enacting Oklahoma laws and while the Senate and the House are co-equal houses, each chamber has it's own exclusive rules/powers.
- In Oklahoma, bills raisings revenue may only originate from the Oklahoma House of Representatives.
- Consent and advice is required from the Oklahoma Senate for gubernatorial appointments to executive positions.
- Only members of the Oklahoma Legislature can introduce legislation – not even the Governor can introduce legislation in the Oklahoma Legislature.
- The Governor has their budget and major initiatives drafted into a bill and the bill must have a sponsor before it is introduced.



# The Oklahoma Legislature, Cont.

- The Legislature meets annually beginning at noon on the first Monday in February. Its sessions must be finished by 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday in May every year.
- The Legislature usually meets Monday through Thursday of each week. The Legislature rarely meets on Fridays, with the exception of the last weeks in May and occasionally earlier in session during deadline weeks.
- In odd numbered years (the years that follow elections), regular session also includes one day in January. On these years, the Legislature meets at noon on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January and recesses no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same day. This meeting is provided for by the Constitution (Section V, Article 26) and is called to declare the members “duly elected.”
- The first session of the 56<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma Legislature started with approximately 2300 pieces of legislation available to be considered.
- After the first deadline a little over 800 bills were available to be considered.
- Following the March 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline, the numbers were down to:
  - App 344 in the Senate
  - App 317 in the House
- The next legislative deadline is April 13 and that is for bills and joint resolutions to be heard in a committee in the opposite chamber.



# How a Bill Becomes a Law

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otbml6WIQPo>



# Oklahoma's Legislative Agenda

With a little over 6 weeks left in this legislative session, a sample of the what the legislature has \_\_\_\_\_:

- REAL ID Act
- Teacher Pay
- Judicial Reform
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Raising Revenue
- Gun Rights
- Repeal of Income Tax Trigger
- Pay Day Loans



# Bills that OOWD is tracking:

**HB 1280**, by Rep. Kevin Wallace, R-Wellston, establishes powers of the Construction Industries Board and creates the Skilled Trade Education and Workforce Development Fund and permits fine revenue transfers thereto will not significantly impact state revenues. The bill allows funds in certain revolving funds to be transferred to a separate Skilled Trade Education and Workforce Development Fund. The Construction Industries Board shall have the following powers:

- " To enter into contracts with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education for any accredited vocational or technical school or system of education institution in the State of Oklahoma receiving state appropriations and offering programs in secondary and post-secondary instruction that provide electrical, mechanical, plumbing or roofing trade coursework for the purpose of:
  - a. developing and implementing instructional courses on Oklahoma statutes and rules that govern the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and roofing trades, which courses can be in conjunction with instruction in performing trade work or instruction on statewide adopted trade codes, or both, for the advancement of the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and roofing trades, or;
  - b. developing and implementing a workforce development program that will create interest in the pursuit of a skilled trade career. The workforce development program may consist of, but is not limited to, use of the Internet, community and school presentations, and research and instruction on the electrical, mechanical, plumbing and roofing trades.





**HB 1667** by Rep. Todd Thomsen, R-Ada, and Sen. Eddie Fields, R-Wynona, modifies the ways in which the State Board of Education awards contracts for a statewide student assessment system which prepares students for college and careers. It allows assessments to be reviewed for alignment to the subject matter standards. The bill also requires the six-year subject area textbook adoption cycle to align to the subject matter standards adoption cycle.

**HB 2008** by Rep. Charles McCall, R-Atoka, creates the Oklahoma Education Act of 2017. The bill creates the “Dyslexia and Education Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to create a dyslexia handbook that will provide guidance for schools, students and parents in identification, intervention and support of students with dyslexia through accommodations and assistive technology. The committee shall be comprised of 19 member including the Secretary of Education and Workforce or designee.

**HB 2155**, by Rep. Jadine Nollan, R-Sand Springs, requires the State Board of Education to adopt a new statewide system of college and career planning tools to be known as the Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP). It requires the Board to work with school districts to incorporate ICAP into graduation requirements. The bill requires students beginning in the school year 2019-2020 to be required to complete the process of an ICAP in order to graduate from a public high school. The bill requires the ICAP to include career and college interest survey, academic progress, workforce goals and workforce experience and it creates an implementation schedule.



**SB 469**, by Sen. Robert Standridge, R-Norman, creates a license to practice funeral directing, but not embalming, upon meeting eligibility requirements. It requires the curriculum of study for a funeral director license to be in a program of mortuary science prescribed by the Oklahoma Funeral Board.

*If a person chooses not to meet the qualifications in subsection B of this section for a funeral director, the person may alternatively qualify for a license to practice funeral directing. The applicant may serve as a **registered apprentice** prior to enrollment in an approved school of mortuary science, concurrently while in mortuary school, or subsequent to completion of the funeral director course of study. . .*

**Registered Apprenticeship** is a proven workforce strategy that can help state and local workforce systems transform how they meet the needs of businesses and workers and fully achieve the vision for the workforce system under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).  
Source: *(WIOA RA Fact Sheet)*

**SB 826**, by Sen. Anastasia Pittman, Oklahoma City and Rep. Mark Lepak, Claremore, creates a task force to research the consideration of creating a partnership between the Department of Corrections, the Oklahoma prison system and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education in order to provide education opportunities for individuals incarcerated offenders once they are released from prison.

**SB 144** by Sen. Jason Smalley, R-Stroud and Rep. Scott Martin, R-Norman, broadens eligibility for the Physician Manpower Training Commission, now accounting for physician assistants and nurse practitioners. It eliminates outdated language. It requires the Commission to promulgate rules.  
*Addresses critical needs for the State's Healthcare workforce and ensures that physicians assistants become eligible for the educational loan repayment assistance program (per PMTC)*



# Bills that did not make it this session

**HB 1214**, by Rep. Forrest Bennett, D-Oklahoma City, would have allowed the State Board of Career and Technology Education to establish a specialized program for training or retraining of skilled laborers who have been displaced, laid or otherwise terminated as a result of an economic downturn in the industry.

**HB 1702**, by Rep. Kevin Calvey, R-Oklahoma City, would have expressed the intent of the Legislature that the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education adopt a policy for each institution within the system that requires the acceptance of no fewer than 40 credit hours of college courses approved by the American Council on Education toward the award of a degree from such institution.

**HB 1729**, by Rep. Meloyde Blancett, D-Tulsa, would have required any federal funds allocated to a state agency as part of the Taxpayer Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program for purposes of workforce development be used for workforce development programs that support the short-term training of workers in sectors with high demand. It would require the allocation take into consideration the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and give priority to programs implemented in both major metropolitan areas and other areas of the state through local workforce development boards.



# Bills that did not make it this session, cont.

**HB 1960**, by Rep. John Jordan, R-Yukon, would have required the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in conjunction with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission to prepare, or contract with an entity to prepare, an economic security report of employment and earning outcomes for degrees or certificates earned at institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education beginning January 1, 2018 and annually thereafter.

**SB 56**, by Sen. J.J. Dossett, D-Sperry, would have removed language that required school districts to provide academic credit for any concurrently enrolled higher education courses that are correlated with the academic credit awarded by the institution of higher education when a student earns college credit through concurrent enrollment. It would have replaced it with language that requires each school district to shall offer no fewer than two concurrent enrollment courses to students in grade twelve for which academic credit will be granted.

**SB 78**, by Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, would have modified requirements for high school students to participate in concurrent enrollment. The bill would have changed the eligibility for concurrent enrollment from students of "exceptional ability" to "eligible" students. It would have established that concurrent enrollment classes can be offered on high school campuses, on college and university campuses and via online courses. The bill would have required concurrent enrollment requirements focus on determining course readiness for two-year institutions of higher education and that concurrent enrollment opportunities be available to all high school students.



# Bills that did not make it this session, cont.

**SB 483**, by Sen. Wayne Shaw, R-Grove, would have established the Social Innovation Financing Trust Fund for the purpose of funding contracts to improve outcomes and lower costs for contracted government services, referred to as "pay for success contracts." (achievement of specific outcomes based on defined performance targets).



# Of note this Session (So far)

## Of note this past session:

- This year the legislature started with 45 new members – 32 in the House and 13 in the Senate.
- The Chairs of the full Appropriations committees in both the House and the Senate are both women.
- At one point of the day on 3/20, the Senate was presided over by Senator A J Griffin - Madam President , AND Senator Stephanie Bice - Madam Floor Leader. A historic moment!

And because Oklahoma Can . . .

**HB 1540**, by Rep. Emily Virgin, D-Norman and Sen. Stephanie Bice, R-Oklahoma City, authorizes a winemaker licensee to sell wine produced at a winery from grapes and other fruits grown in Oklahoma for either on or off-premises consumption. It eliminates the Direct Wine Consumer's Permit. The change in the substitute allows Oklahoma wineries to ship their products within the state, but keeps the restriction on shipping for out-of-state wineries.

**HB 2324**, by Rep. Jeff Coody, R-Grandfield and Sen. Paul Scott, R-Duncan, allows the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to issue a permit to a person who holds a big game commercial hunting area license to engage in the management of depredating animals (*feral hogs*) by use of aircraft on certain lands. It allows the permit holder to contract with others. It requires the permit to be carried in the aircraft when performing management by the use of aircraft. It modifies the definition of management by the use of aircraft to add the term with any firearm.



# Congress

- Congress is in recess this week and next week. When congress returns, they will have four legislative days to approve a funding measure (Continuing Resolution) to send to the President.
- Failure to pass new appropriations would likely result in a partial shutdown as legislation passed last December funds the government through April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Source:** National Conference of State Legislatures

- The current presidential budget proposal can be viewed at: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018\\_blueprint.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018_blueprint.pdf)
- The budget process is ongoing within various branches of government.



# Congress

- Based on current information, cuts to WIOA formula programs for FY 18 could fall between the \$1-1.5 billion range.
- It is difficult to assess the size of cuts to formula programs as the proposed presidential budget offers little details and interpretation of the numbers out there leads to different analyses.
- Proponents of Workforce and Education are urging Congress to spare any proposed cuts as this may lead to the deterioration of State budgets.

**Source:** NGAs National Association of State Liaisons for Workforce Development Partnerships.





# Thank You!

If you have any questions, please contact the Policy and Program Staff in the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development. Contact information can be found at:

<http://oklahomaworks.gov/about/>

[www.oklahomaworks.gov](http://www.oklahomaworks.gov)

