

Senate Joint Resolution 58

LATEST NEWS: The resolution to protect money designated for highway maintenance and construction was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

AT STAKE: The proposal calls for a statewide election to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to create a constitutional lockbox to project revenue intended for highways and other transportation uses.

WHAT'S NEXT: The resolution goes to the full Senate.

HB 2512

LATEST NEWS: Passed a House committee Wednesday.

AT STAKE: The bill would give consumers a nontransferable tax credit equal to 40 percent of the total cost of installation for wind, solar and geo-thermal energy systems.

WHAT'S NEXT: Bill goes to the full House for a vote.

HB 2437

LATEST NEWS: Passed a House committee Wednesday.

AT STAKE: The bill would give Oklahoma residents a tax credit of up to \$75 for contributions toward programs helping victims of domestic violence, pregnant women and senior citizens.

WHAT'S NEXT: Bill goes to the full House for a vote.

HB 2841

LATEST NEWS: Passed the full House on Wednesday, 97-1 with Rep. Opio Toure, D-Oklahoma City, voting against the measure.

AT STAKE: The bill would allow a judge to tighten bail restrictions on criminals deemed particularly dangerous. The bill is in response to the death of Caitlin Wooten, 16, of Ada, who police said was kidnapped and killed by her mother's ex-boyfriend after he had posted bail.

WHAT'S NEXT: Bill will likely be referred to a Senate committee.

SB 1056

LATEST NEWS: The proposal to create a diabetes center with operations on the University of Oklahoma campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, won approval of the Senate Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

AT STAKE: The center could become one of the nation's top research and treatment centers for diabetes, OU President David Boren said.

WHAT'S NEXT: The bill goes to the full Senate for consideration.

SB 1993

LATEST NEWS: The Senate Appropriations Committee approved the bill to expand a higher education scholarship program called the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program.

AT STAKE: It would raise the maximum family income level for which students can be eligible for free college tuition from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

WHAT'S NEXT: The bill goes to the full Senate for consideration.

SB 1495

LATEST NEWS: The Kyle Williams Boating Safety Education Act won approval Wednesday from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AT STAKE: The measure would require children between 12 and 16 to take a boating safety course before operating watercraft. Williams, 12, of Oklahoma City, was killed in a watercraft accident in 2004.

WHAT'S NEXT: The bill goes to the full Senate for consideration.

From Staff Reports

Hornets tickets to stay tax free

By Jennifer Mock, Capitol Bureau

Legislation approved Wednesday will allow tickets to the Oklahoma City Hornets games to remain sales tax-free.

The House Revenue and Taxation Committee unanimously approved its version of Senate Bill 1022, which gives the Hornets and any future Oklahoma National Hockey League team an exemption.

The move is considered a formality since making tickets tax-free was part of the deal struck with team leaders in September to bring the Hornets to Oklahoma City in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Hornets officials have said the incentive is important because it helps them keep ticket prices low.

The committee also approved House Bill 2062, which would extend the exemption to minor league teams including the Oklahoma RedHawks, Oklahoma City Blazers, Oklahoma City Yard Dawgz, Tulsa Drillers, Tulsa Talons and Tulsa Oilers.

The Hornets exemption would be retroactive to Sept. 21, while the other teams' exemptions would apply to future sales.

Rep. Mike Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City, said the Oklahoma

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