February Legislative Report

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DRS Legislative Liaison

BUDGET- As I write this, we are just a few days away from the legislative session, the Governor’s state of the state, and his budget. The state equalization board certified $8.339 billion, an increase of just $9.4 million or 0.1 percent over the $8.330 billion appropriated for FY2020. Another $200 million is available for appropriation from reserve funds, but it will be a tight budget.

LEGISLATION – I have completed my initial review of bills and the new watch list bills are below. SB 1140 is our DDS IT security audit exemption bill and SB 1128 is our deaf education teacher testing bill. Both are works in progress that we expect to change as we get into session. As discussed in my January report, I would ask you to approve moving forward with these bills.

The most concerning is HB 3080, which exempts counties from blind vendor priority. We will also watch SB 1693 closely as it seeks to consolidate a number of our fellow workforce agencies under the Labor Commissioner. On the good side, HB 4006 and SB 1190 look to make contributions tax exempt to ABLE accounts (529 plans for persons with disabilities).

Of the remaining HB 3891 is a bill passing through DRS $500,000 in state funds to the state Centers for Independent Living. And, SB 1474 is a Sen. Dahm bill that provides that any appointed member of a state board or commission be liable and subject to impeachment for willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, habitual drunkenness, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude committed while in office.

The first day of session is February 3rd, and our first deadline is the 17th to report House bills out of subcommittees.

**Watch List**

Bill Portfolio

**8 Bills On Report**

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| [**HB3080**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?HB3080_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**HB3080, by Rep. Kyle Hilbert, R-Depew, exempts the board of county commissioners of each county from the duty of making sure the county property under their jurisdictions or premises of property gives priority to vending facilities operated by licensed blind operators and established by the State Department of Rehabilitation Services.  **Effective Date:**11/01/2020    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**BEP, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Hilbert, Kyle (H)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/16/2020 |

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| [**HB3891**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?HB3891_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**HB3891, by Rep. Merleyn Bell, D-Norman, establishes elements of public policy to include recognition and support of individuals with disabilities and creates a support delivery system for individuals with disabilities ensuring that persons are well informed as to the types of services available. It requires that institutional services be considered only as a last resort. The bill appropriates $500,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the State Department of Rehabilitation Services for utilization, development and implementation of health and wellness programs. (Emergency Measure)  **Effective Date:**07/01/2020    **Emergency:**Yes  **Tracking List:**DRS, Disability 2020, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Bell, Merleyn (H)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/17/2020 |

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| [**HB4006**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?HB4006_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**HB4006, by Rep. Kevin Wallace, R-Wellston, allows each taxpayer a deduction for contributions to accounts established pursuant to the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program as established in Section 4001.1 et seq. of Title 56 of the Oklahoma Statutes for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2019.  **Effective Date:**01/01/2021    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**Disability 2020, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Wallace, Kevin (H)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/17/2020 |

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| [**SB1128**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?SB1128_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**SB1128, by Sen. Frank Simpson, R-Ardmore, allows the State Board of Education to grant an exception to the requirements for all certification examinations for teach candidates who are deaf. It defines applicable terms. It allows the board to grant an exception in specified instances. It allows the board to promulgate rules and other requirements as necessary. (Emergency Measure)  **Effective Date:**07/01/2020    **Emergency:**Yes  **Tracking List:**DRS, Education OSB/OSD, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Simpson, Frank (S)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**12/19/2019 |

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| [**SB1140**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?SB1140_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**SB1140, by Sen. Frank Simpson, R-Ardmore, exempts the Developmental Disabilities Services Division of the Department of Human Services from provisions of the requirement every state agency obtain an information security risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities associated with the information system.  **Effective Date:**11/01/2020    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**DDD, DRS, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Simpson, Frank (S)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**12/23/2019 |

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| [**SB1190**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?SB1190_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**SB1190, by Sen. Adam Pugh, R-Edmond, permits, for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2019, each taxpayer to be allowed a deduction for contributions to accounts established pursuant to the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program as established by statute. It sets the maximum annual deduction for each tax year at no more than $10,000 for each individual taxpayer or $20,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return. It permits any amount of a contribution that is not deducted by the taxpayer in the year for which the contribution is made to be carried forward up to five years. It permits deductions to be taken for contributions made during a taxable year and up to April 15 of the succeeding year, or the due date of a taxpayer's state income tax return, including extensions, whichever is later, provided, a deduction for the same contribution may not be taken for two different taxable years.  **Effective Date:**11/01/2020    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**Disability 2020, VR, VS, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Pugh, Adam (S)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/03/2020 |

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| [**SB1474**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?SB1474_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**SB1474, by Sen. Nathan Dahm, R-Broken Arrow, requires the governor, elected and nonelected state officers, including the justices of the Supreme Court, and any appointed member of a state board or commission to be liable and subject to impeachment for willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, habitual drunkenness, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude committed while in office.  **Effective Date:**11/01/2020    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**Commission, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Dahm, Nathan (S)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/15/2020 |

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| [**SB1693**](https://www.ecapitol.net/viewtext.wcs?SB1693_INT~57th) | **Paraphrase:**SB1693, by Sen. Robert Standridge, R-Norman, creates the Oklahoma Workforce and Economic Development Act. It creates in the Department of Labor a division to be called the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, to continue until July 1, 2026, according to the Oklahoma Sunset Law. It outlines the purpose of the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development to administer federal grant funding allocations from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and other federal grants and sources of funding relating to this state's workforce development programs, employment and training services to various Oklahoma citizens and those recipients of federal assistance funds, and pursuant to the powers, duties and responsibilities prescribed in this act or authorized by state or federal law. It requires the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development to operate without direct state appropriated funding and to be contingent upon federal funding and other sources of monies derived from federal resources and nonappropriated funds, except as otherwise specifically authorized therein for state interagency agreements, state agency personnel resource sharing agreements, monies earned from office space rental agreements between state agencies, state agency contractual agreements, memorandum of understanding agreements between state agencies, or other state agency resource sharing agreements. It allows the Department of Labor to accept and apply for gifts, grants, donations, and funds from public and private sources to support the duties of the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development. It allows the Department of Labor to use money from job training funds and other money to implement the requirements therein. It defines terms used therein.  **Effective Date:**11/01/2020    **Emergency:**No  **Tracking List:**Agencies, DRS, WIOA, Watch List  **Principal Authors:**Standridge, Robert (S)  **Status:**Prefiled   **Status Date:**01/16/2020 |