



Oklahoma
State
Senate

Legislative Brief

June 2001

Miscellaneous Legislation Related to Public Employees

Legislation affecting public employees was enacted during the 1st Session of the 48th Legislature. The following is an outline of the legislation:

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

- **SB 571 (Helton/Nations):** [§1] Expands to all state agencies the authority to expend money on employee recognition awards. [§3] Grants to those hired on or after July 1, 1996, the same leave accrual as those who were hired before this date. This change will result in an increase in annual leave for such employees who have less than ten years of employment with the state. [§4] Provides that classified employees working in an institutional setting who are on-call shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours of work if the employee reports to work. Effective November 1, 2001.
- **SB 611 (Wilkerson/Turner):** Allows the chief administrative officer of an agency to approve donated leave in excess of the statutory maximum limits. An employee must request in writing to have such donated leave. Emergency.
- **SB 702 (Taylor/Mass):** [§1] Requires the Office of Personnel Management to conduct a biennial study concerning state employee salaries and rates of turn-over. [§2] Amends the flexible benefit allowance for state employees to be based upon an average of the high option health insurance plans. It also increases the dependent flexible benefit allowance from fifty percent (50%) to seventy-five percent (75%). [§3] Provides for targeted raises for certain state employees of the Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Transportation, J.D. McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities, Office of Juvenile Affairs, Pardon and Parole Board, State Department of Health and State Department of Rehabilitation Services. Effective July 1, 2001.
- **HB 1070 (Mitchell/Littlefield):** [§§ 1-2] Amends the State Travel Reimbursement Act. It bases the rates of reimbursement for meals and lodging expenses on amounts authorized by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Rates will now vary depending upon where you travel in the United States. Such rates can be found on the following website: <http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/perdiem/perd01d.html> [§3] Allows the Banking Department to reimburse its employees for actual and necessary expenses. Effective July 1, 2001.
- **HB 1332 (Nations/Coffee):** Allows state agencies to create employee productivity programs to encourage employees to help find more efficient productivity measures. It also allows

state agencies to expend monies available to them for the purchase of employee productivity program recognition awards. Effective November 1, 2001.

- **HB 1450 (Miller/Nichols):** Provides for the payment of up to \$7,000 funeral expense and six months of premiums for the survivors of a state employee killed in the line of duty during a Governor declared emergency. Payment shall be made from the Emergency Fund or the employing agency if funds are not available in the Emergency Fund. Emergency.
- **HB 1768 (Dunegan/Dickerson):** This bill amends many sections of law relating to state employees. The highlights of this bill are outlined herein. [§2] Allows the Office of Personnel Management to enforce compliance of the Oklahoma Personnel Act. [§3] Provides pay for performance as a new pay movement mechanism for state employees. Agencies may utilize this pay movement mechanism on state employees who have received at least a “meet standard” on their most recent performance rating. [§4]. Provides that rules will be promulgated by the Office of Personnel Management to restore the Family Medical Leave Act provisions to state employees if the Family Medical Leave Act is found not enforceable against the states or is repealed by Congress. [§5] Extends donated leave to employees who have a death of an immediate family member. [§13] Places certain positions in the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission and the entire Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Commission in the unclassified service. [§14] Increases the discretionary additional compensation for Oklahoma State Industries personnel within the Department of Corrections from \$5,000 to \$10,000. [§16] Places employees of the State Election Board in the classified service. [§20] Raises the cap on performance incentive awards from \$5,000 to \$10,000. [§27]. Amends SB 702 (2001) by providing targeted pay raises for Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, and State Department of Health nurse managers and Oklahoma Transportation Authority transportation equipment operators. Effective July 1, 2001.

Contact For More Information:

Selden Jones
(405) 521-5559
jones@lsb.state.ok.us

Brian Phillips
(405) 521-5627
phillips@lsb.state.ok.us

Prepared By:
The Oklahoma State Senate, Senate Staff
Senator Stratton Taylor, President Pro Tempore