

# OPEA's 2010 Legislative Agenda

## Priorities

**Defend Benefits And Jobs:** OPEA staff has reviewed more than 2,000 bills that have been proposed for this legislative session. Several are "shell bills," which have titles but no language. Some of these are related to state employee health insurance or critical state programs such as foster care, juvenile justice and health. In addition, shell bills have been introduced with titles such as "government modernization, accountability or agency consolidation." Such legislation often can be used to promote privatization. OPEA will be monitoring these bills closely to be certain that when the provisions are finally inserted in these shell bills, they do not harm state employees and the people they serve. Watch the OPEA Web site closely for changes in these issues as the legislative session progresses.

With revenue collections down, OPEA will be monitoring the budgeting process concerning the loss of state jobs. In addition, the Association is pursuing legislation for a one-time early retirement voluntary out. Several vehicles could be used for this important legislation. The Web site will also have the latest information on this initiative.

**Fight Privatization:** Several bills have been filed to privatize critical state functions. In addition, privatization language could be added to shell bills. As OPEA staff learns more about the direction of these initiatives, information will be posted on the OPEA Web site.

**Retiree COLA:** OPERS retirees last received a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2008. OPEA is asking for a 4-percent COLA this year and a 2-percent COLA in all subsequent years.

**Pass OPEA Legislation:** In addition to bills that carried over from last year to this year, OPEA has filed new legislation.

## OPEA Bills

### New Legislation

**HB 2675:** (Faight) - This bill prohibits any agency, board, commission or state entity under the Oklahoma State Finance Act from executing a contract over \$100,000 without approval during a revenue shortfall.

**HB 2784:** (Billy) - This bill provides a 4-percent COLA for OPERS retirees, effective July 1, 2010, with a 2-percent annual COLA each following year.

**HB 3052:** (Kirby) - This bill requires that state employees be given a minimum of two days off for the Christmas holiday.

**SB 1904:** (Barrington) - This bill requires that unclassified employees be provided a severance package if they lose their job in a reorganization and that agencies send OPEA notice of voluntary out and furlough plans.

**SB 2224:** (Myers) - This bill requires private prison corporations to apply for a certificate of need before building a new facility or adding beds to an existing facility.

### Carried Over From Last Year

**HB 1695:** (Billy) - This legislation doubles longevity. Because of the state's budget problems, this is probably not the year for implementation. OPEA will be exploring options for a delayed implementation date.

**HB 2248:** (Terrill) - Turnover Reduction Act. This is a state employee pay bill that can be used for the comprehensive pay plan study.

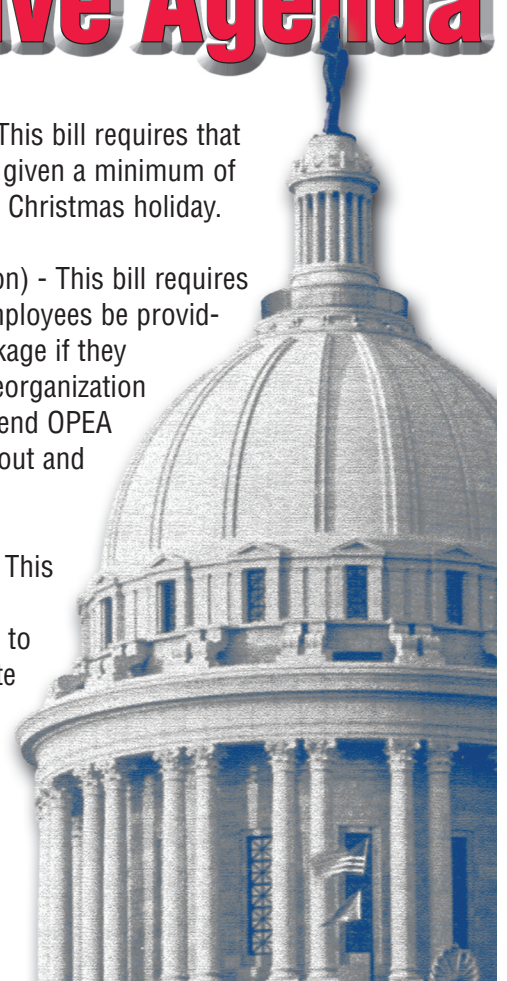
**SB 1096:** (Reynolds) - This will be a challenging year for state employees, with very little possibility for a pay raise. However, SB 1096 does include provisions for a state employee comprehensive pay plan, which requires a study of pay and benefits. The study could be implemented this year to prepare for a time when more money is available.

### Support Bills

**HB 2878:** (Dank) - This bill mandates that a committee or subcommittee of the House of Representatives conduct an annual review and evaluation of each tax credit authorized by state law and submit that report to the House speaker.

**HB 2879:** (Dank) - This bill prevents tax

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credit legislation from being included with any other variety of legislation. Tax credits must be passed separately.

**HB 3385:** (Terrill) - This bill creates the Oklahoma Public Employees Deferred Compensation Act. It may be the vehicle for a statewide voluntary out or retirement incentive.

**SB 1928:** (Newberry) - This bill amends law to differentiate a juvenile or youthful offender who escapes from a facility or during transportation. The juvenile offender will be guilty of a felony, punishable by one to seven years of imprisonment.

**SB 1379:** (Sykes) - This bill creates a Web site where agencies must post a request for proposal for attorney expenses of more than \$5,000. Agencies would have to approve attorney expenses of over \$500,000 with the governor.

**SB 1753:** (Leftwich) - This bill includes date of birth in the list of personal information to be kept confidential for those employed by public bodies.

**SB 1757:** (Sykes) - This bill prohibits government entities from employing lobbyists.

**SB 2324:** (C. Johnson) - This bill requires certain public employees to disclose information pertaining to their relationship with a private prison to the State Ethics Commission and private prisons to be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

## ***Bills Of Concern***

**HB 2532:** (Schwartz) - This bill mandates that persons applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) pass a drug test and disqualifies persons and families who fail or refuse these tests from the TANF program.

**HB 2662:** (Sullivan) - This bill sells CompSource Oklahoma and all its assets to the highest bidder by Dec. 31, 2011. Upon the sale of CompSource OK, any employee not hired by the successor company would have priority for positions in other state agencies.

**HB 3258:** (Blackwell) - This bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop a plan to outsource the provision of foster care and related services.

**SB 1392:** (Sykes) - This bill requires those applying for or receiving TANF assistance to pass a drug test administered by

the Department of Human Services to remain eligible for the program.

**SB 2232:** (Aldridge) - Under this bill, CompSource Oklahoma would be sold to the highest bidder by Dec. 31, 2011. All proceeds would be retained by the state of Oklahoma. Volunteer fire departments would obtain workers' comp insurance through the successor of CompSource Oklahoma.

**SJR 50:** (Coates) - This constitutional amendment would exempt appropriations to common education, food and nutrition services to senior citizens and the Highway Patrol from constitutional budget reductions in the event of a budget deficit.

## ***Monitor Bills***

Below are some of the bills OPEA will be following this session. Watch the Web site for additional updates and bills.

**HB 2618:** (Proctor) - This bill would permit the governor to request the Contingency Review Board, when the Legislature isn't in session, to direct agencies, boards and commissions to request voluntary furloughs to reduce their number of employees.

**HB 2786:** (Billy) - This bill requires social workers to submit to a national criminal history record check and a fingerprint check. Those convicted of a felony would not be licensed. Independent social workers also would have to be licensed.

**HB 2833:** (Ownbey) - This bill prohibits the use of the Oklahoma State Park Trust Fund for payroll or to compensate employees for certain duties.

**HJR 1080:** (Benge) - This bill refers to the people a constitutional amendment that would specify that the Pardon and Parole Board is within the Department of Corrections and amend minor language pertaining to the governor to be gender neutral.

**SB 2243:** (Sykes) - This bill transfers duties and responsibilities from the Pardon and Parole Board to the Department of Corrections.

