

Citizen Involvement in the Legislative Process

Simple Action Steps

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PART ONE

Introductory – The Basics

Our System of Government

Representative Republic – elected officials:

- Local – City Councilors, Mayor
- County – Commissioners
- **State – House Representatives, Senators**
- State – Governor, Lt. Governor
- Federal – House Representatives, Senators
- Federal - President

**They represent you –
or special interests**

OK State – Two Chambers

House: 2-year Terms



Senate: 4-year Terms



OK Legislative Sessions ~ 16-weeks

- Begins first Monday of February – **2/6/2012**
 - Ends last day of May - **5/25/2012**
- Between sessions is referred to as the **Interim**

Find Your Legislator

Oklahoma Legislature Website:

www.oklegislature.gov

Click “Find My Legislator”

- Put your legislator’s contact information in your cell phone, add to your email list
- Make calls when asked to do so!

Oklahoma State Legislature

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Find Legislation

House Video

Live on the House Floor

House

- Meet the Speaker
- House Members
- House Committees
- House Calendars



Senate Video

Live on the Senate Floor

Live in the Senate Committee Rooms

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Status: The Oklahoma Legislature convened for the 53rd Legislature on Monday, February 7, 2011 and will adjourn on Friday, May 27 by 5:00 p.m.

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Enter Zip



PART TWO

The Next Step - Lobbying

Call and Meet



**Call your State Representative
and Your Senator**

**Introduce yourself;
invite him/her out for
a cup of coffee**



Visit Their Office



Visit your legislator in their home district and at the Capitol

- Be polite and *calm*
- Explain your interests
- Keep in touch via phone and email
- Get to know the legislative assistant
- Send a thank you

Lobbying – Be prompt, friendly



Oklahoma State Capitol Building

- Make app't or drop in
- Go in groups of 2 or 3
- Identify yourself/your organization
- Explain why you are there - briefly
- Bulleted handouts

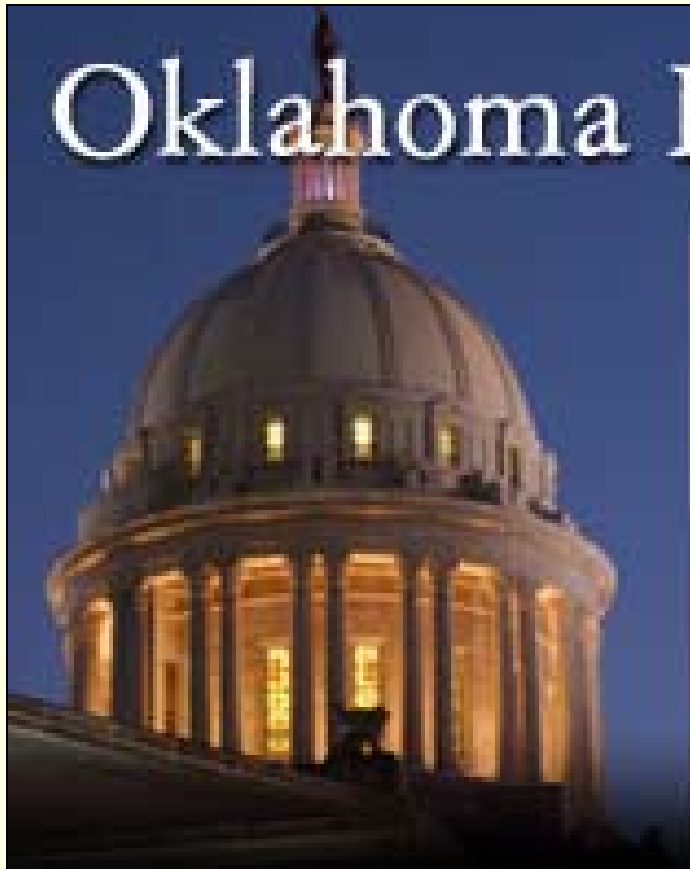
Write to your Legislator

- **Good Grief - Be Brief!**
- Have a specific message:
“I object to...” *i.e.* the Health Insurance Exchanges; implementing the provisions of ObamaCare; collection of personal biometrics, etc.
- **Include excerpt and page # from the actual bill**
- Use your own words
- When sending e-mails – sign your name, include home address and phone #



Write letters to the Editor!

Oklahoma Capitol Information



House: 1-405-521-2711
1-800-522-8502

Senate: 1-405-524-0126
1-800-865-6490

Capitol Address:

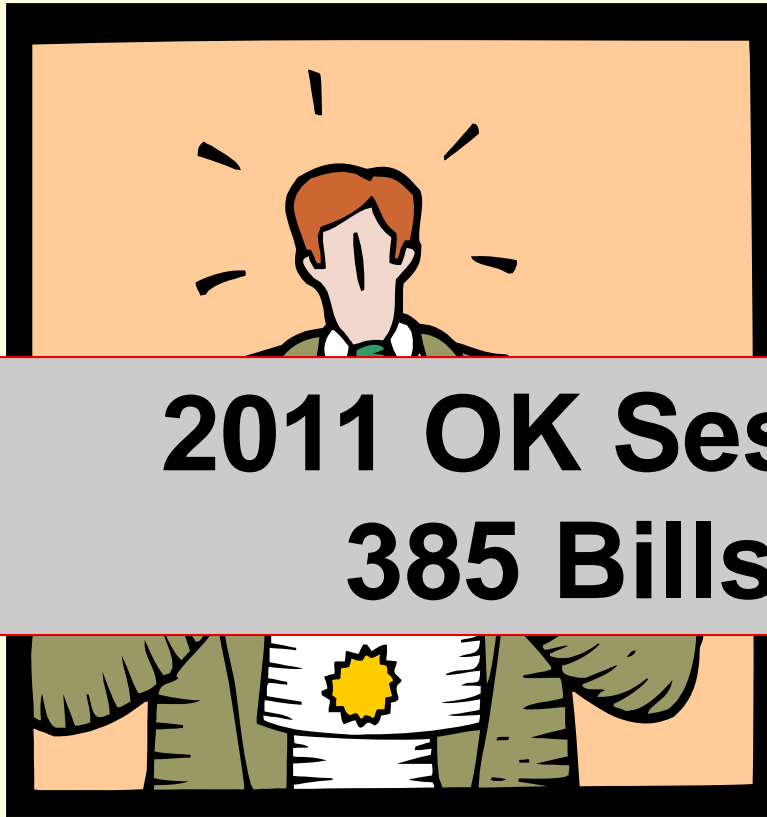
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105



PARTS THREE & FOUR

Advanced - Legislation

Legislation



Legislation can only do three things:

- Amend existing law

**2011 OK Session Passed
385 Bills into Law**

- Repeal existing law

Amend

Changes a current section of Oklahoma law

Amendments are indicated by strike-thrus and underlines

Read the strike-thrus and underlined sections

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 128, O.S.L. 2009 (36 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 4602), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4602. A. ~~The Insurance Commissioner in collaboration with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority~~ **Health Care for the Uninsured Board (HUB) Executive Director** shall advise and aid the ~~Health Care for the Uninsured Board (HUB)~~ in its duties. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be the Executive Director. ~~The Insurance Commissioner Executive Director~~ is hereby authorized to promulgate such reasonable rules as are necessary to implement the purposes of this act.

- B. 1. The Health Care for the Uninsured Board shall consist of:
- a.two members to be appointed by the Governor who shall represent the interests of the top five health insurance providers in the state,
 - b.one member to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who shall represent the interests of insurance agents in the state,
 - c.one member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall represent the interests of Oklahoma employers,
 - d.the Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, or designee,
 - e.the Insurance Commissioner, or designee, and
 - f.an actuary, to be designated by the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Council.
2. Appointees shall represent interests affected by insurance exchange requirements, including business interests, consumers and insurance providers

New Law

Adds a new law to a the current Oklahoma statutes

Read all of this language

(This is a *shell bill* – little content. Reserves a spot for language to be added later)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

SENATE BILL 411 By: Brown

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 7300 of Title 36, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. The Insurance Department shall, in collaboration with the State Department of Health, establish and maintain a comprehensive health care information system. The comprehensive health care information system shall be published on a website that permits consumers to see approximate pricing information on different health care services from different types of providers.
- B. The purpose of the **comprehensive health care information** system shall be to:
 - 1. Serve as a resource for insurers, employers, providers, purchasers of health care, and state agencies to continuously review health care utilization, expenditures, and performance; and
 - 2. Enhance the ability of consumers and employers to make informed and cost-effective health care choices.
- C. In presenting data from the comprehensive health care information system, comparative considerations shall be made regarding geography, demographics, general economic factors, and institutional size.

Repealer

Repeals a
section of
Oklahoma
law

May include a
substitute

Read the
section of law
referenced

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

HOUSE BILL 1030

By: Reynolds

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public finance; repealing Section 1, Chapter 85, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2006, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2007 and Section 2, Chapter 85, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2006, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2007 (62 O.S. Supp. 2010, Sections 47 and 52), which relate to the Economic Development Generating Excellence Fund and the Economic Development Generating Excellence Fund Policy Board; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

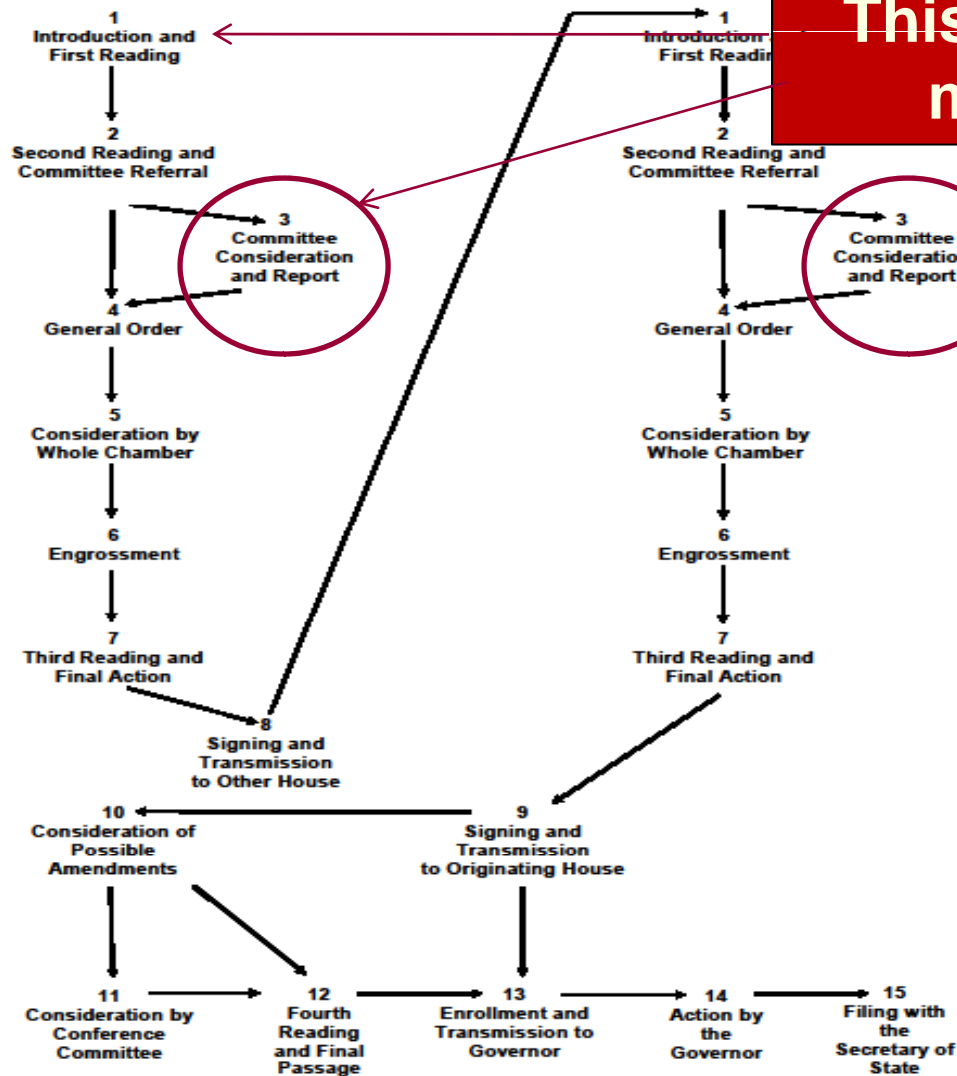
BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. REPEALER Section 1, Chapter 85, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2006, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2007 (62 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 47), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 1. REPEALER Section 2, Chapter 85, 2nd Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 2006, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 350, O.S.L. 2007 (62 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 52), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 1. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

The Path of a New Law in Oklahoma



This is when you make calls!

Checks and Balances – bills must pass through both chambers. Both chambers must agree to all wording in each bill before sending to the Governor

HOUSE



Rep. Kris Steele, Speaker of the House



Bill Introduced
read 2X

**This is when you
make calls!**

Committee

Committee

Committee

Votes

- Do Pass
- Do Pass w/amendment
- Do Pass w/committee substitute
- Do Not Pass

Stop

Bill is Sent to
Floor for Vote



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Senate

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House
Leadership

LEADERSHIP

House Majority Leadership

Click on the Member's Photo to display that Member's information page.



Speaker of the House
Steele, Kris
(R) District 26



Speaker Pro Tempore
Hickman, Jeffrey W.
(R) District 58



Majority Leader
DeWitt, Dale
(R) District 38



Majority Floor Leader
Sullivan, Daniel
(R) District 71



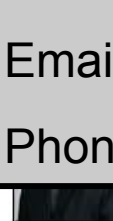
Assistant Majority
Floor Leader
Banz, Gary W.
(R) District 101



Assistant Majority
Floor Leader
Billy, Lisa J.
(R) District 42



Assistant Majority
Floor Leader
Faight, George
(R) District 14



Assistant Majority
Floor Leader
Jackson, Mike
(R) District 40



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- [Legislative Deadlines](#)
- [Information](#)

Rep. Dan Sullivan – HD 71

Email: danielsullivan@okhouse.gov

Phone: 405-557-7361

**NOTE: Sullivan has taken
a job with the GRDA**

House Leadership Contact Info.

- **Speaker: Kris Steele – HD 26**

Email: krissteele@okhouse.gov

Phone: 405-557-7345



- **Speaker Pro Tempore: Jeff Hickman – HD 36**

Email: jwhickman@okhouse.gov

Phone: 405-557-7339



- **Majority Leader: Dale DeWitt – HD 38**

Email: daledewitt@okhouse.gov

Phone: 405-557-7332



- **Floor Leader: Dan Sullivan – HD 71**

Email: danielsullivan@okhouse.gov

Phone: 405-557-7361



Senate Leadership Contact Info.

- **Pro-Temp: Brian Bingman – SD 12**

Email: bingman@oksenate.gov

Phone: 405-521-5528



- **Majority Floor Leader: Mike Schulz – SD 38**

Email: schulz@oksenate.gov

Phone: 405-521-5612



- **Democrat Leader: Andrew Rice – SD 46**

Email: rice@oksenate.gov

Phone: 405-521-5610



Basic Bill Search

New Feature! LENS

Text of Measures

Oklahoma State Legislature

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House Video

Live on the House Floor

House

Meet the Speaker

House Members

House Committees

House Calendars

Basic Bill Search

Advanced Bill Search

Track Bills (LENS)

Text of Measures

Search Text of Measures

Browse Oklahoma Constitution

Browse Oklahoma Statutes

Search Oklahoma Statutes and Constitution

Senate Video

Live on the Senate Floor

Live in the Senate Committee Rooms

Senate

Meet the President Pro Tempore

Senate Members

Senate Committees

Senate Calendars

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House Committee

[House Meeting Notices](#)

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Committees:

- Choose Senate or House

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http://www.okhouse.gov/Committees/Default.aspx

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Oklahoma State Legislature

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House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMITTEE PAGES

Committees	Committee Members	Committee Amendments	Committee Reports	Committee Votes	Meeting Notices	Meeting Schedule
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Interim Studies

Note: You must select a Committee or Subcommittee to view the Members, Amendments, and pages.

House Committees & Subcommittees

Current Standing Committees & Subcommittees
Administrative Rules and Government Oversight
Agriculture, Wildlife & Environment
Appropriations & Budget
Education
General Government & Transportation
Human Services
Judiciary
Natural Resources & Regulatory Services

House Meeting Notices

- Ask to be notified of committee meetings:
- porterba@okhouse.gov A&B
- katzte@okhouse.gov

Senate Meeting Notices:

- houser@oksenate.gov

Indicate of which meetings you wish to be notified

Done

McAfee SECURE

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File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.okhouse.gov/Legislation/Default.aspx

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House of Representatives

LEGISLATION

Legislation
Main Floor Amendments by Bill Date
Main Floor Amendments by Bill Number
Main Floor Amendments by Date Filed
House Votes
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Advanced Bill Search
Text of Measures
Search Text of Measures
Committee Reports
Browse Oklahoma Constitution
Browse Oklahoma Statutes
Search Oklahoma Constitution and Statutes

House Committees

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Information

Above are the links to the Legislation pages. You can hover your mouse over the links for a description of the page.

Done

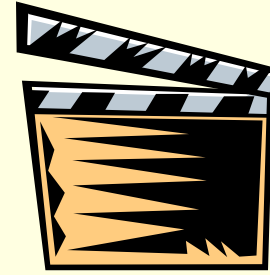
McAfee SECURE

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To Check Votes:

- Click House/Senate Home Page
- Click Legislation
- Click House (Senate) Votes
- Enter Bill # or Date of Vote

Action Steps



- Learn how the legislative process works – then work the process
- Call, Meet, and Write to State Legislators (include voting address)
- If no response in 10 days, email legislator, requesting reply
- Make an appointment to meet him/her personally
- Inform yourself and others – (Sunday school, work, etc. Recruit them.)
- Keep in touch – *read* the information and alerts
- Avoid groups that do not include a link to the bill they're asking support for – something is wrong!
- Join/donate to grassroots groups
- Attend Action Meetings
- Make the calls when asked!
- Plan to visit the Capitol at least twice during the session; more if time permits
- **Get involved in your precincts,** and in the county and state party

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- Visit our website: www.ok-safe.com
- AxXiom For Liberty: www.axxiomforliberty.com
- Sign up for the Newsletter and Action Alerts
- **Read** to understand the issues/language
- Contact your elected officials – today
- Make those calls when notified – they work