

2009
End-of-Session Overview
Prepared for the
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association

1. SB 1181 by Sen Clark Jolley, R-Edmond and Rep. Dr. Doug Cox, R-Grove. Request bill from the State Board of Pharmacy to update their Rules contained in State Statutes, with the help and support of the OPhA. It was decided that this would be the priority for OPhA pro-active efforts during the Session. Therefore, we took the lead on getting the bill introduced, heard and passed. As part of our strategy, we began with two bills – a companion **HB 1908** was introduced by Dr. Cox in the House, but was never heard.

Before formally introducing this legislation, we identified a whole range of health care groups with whom the Board and OPhA should meet. The goal of these meetings was to provide an opportunity to explain what was being proposed and why, and then to ask for their input. These groups included:

Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics	Oklahoma Hospital Association
Oklahoma Health Care Authority	Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Oklahoma Medical Licensure Board	Oklahoma Optometric Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association	PHRMA
Oklahoma Nurses Association and Board of Nursing	

As a result of meeting with all of these groups, some changes were requested and included in SB 1181 before it was ever formally introduced. Because of all of the pre-Session work, there was very little concern for the bill expressed during Session by any of these groups. Also attached is a copy of the lobbying hand-out that was used to help lobby for passage.

Ultimately during Session there were changes negotiated with representatives from the PBM's that resulted in some clarifying language that was added when the HB 1181 was heard in House Committee. Additionally, House Leadership requested the inclusion of a fee increase for the Optometrists, that was also added in House.

The final version of SB 1181 passed the Senate by a vote of 44-0. In final version the bill passed the House by a vote of 85-7. Following adjournment of the Legislative Session, the bill was signed into law by Governor Henry.

2. SB 29 by Sen. Debbe Leftwich, D-OKC – Introduced to require symptoms to be listed on RX labels. We took the lead in working with Senate Health Committee Chairman Clark Jolley to keep this from being heard in Senate Health. A companion bill,

HB 1516 was introduced by Rep. Scott Inman, D-Del City. We took the lead on this bill also -- working with House Health Committee Chairman John Trebilcock to keep it from being heard in House Health. We were successful, as neither bill was heard in Committee and the issue died.

3. SB 378 by Sen. Andrew Rice, D-OKC – Introduced to require insurance to cover certain vaccinations at 120% of the retail cost charged by physicians. We supported this and worked for its passage in the Senate Health Committee. However, because of the proposed increase in cost, we were not successful in getting the bill heard in House Committee. Because this was the first year of a two year Legislative Session, SB 378 will remain alive for next year.

4. SB 986 by Sen. Randy Brodgon, R-Owasso – Proposed that the selection of Executive Directors for most state Boards and Commissions would require an appointment by the Governor with confirmation by the State Senate. We helped organize other groups to join in opposing this bill. We were successful, as this bill was never heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

5. SB 264 by Sen. Jim Wilson, D-Tahlequah – Proposed that all licensed pharmacies would be required to dispense any prescription contraceptive drug or device in stock without delay. This was viewed as an intrusion on the rights of Pharmacists to make decisions about what they would or would not dispense. We took the lead on opposing this bill. We were successful in keeping this bill from every being heard in Senate Judiciary Committee.

6. HB 2102 by Rep. Jerry McPeak, D-Muskogee – Proposed the creating of the "Donut Hole Act", which would require the Department of Human Services to establish a program to provide prescription drugs to senior citizens. We supported this bill and met with DHS to discuss its possibilities. When DHS informed us of the huge financial impact it would have on their budget, we realized that it would be all but impossible to pass. The bill was never heard in House Human Services Committee.

7. HB 1849 by Rep. Ryan McMullen, D-Burns Flat – Would have prohibited pharmacies from selling patient-identifiable information. We worked with Rep. McMullen to help him understand that this was not needed. We also worked with House Leadership to help them understand that it was not needed and requested that it be assigned to the House Rules Committee. We were successful, as the bill was assigned to House Rules and was never heard.

8. SB 1119 by Sen. Anthony Sykes, R-Moore, and Rep. Randy Terrill, R-Moore – major request bill from State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs “OBND”. Among other provisions, the bill proposed Real-time reporting requirements on controlled substances. We identified concerns with meeting the various requirements for implementation of this bill. We worked with OBND and the bill’s authors and were successful in getting the effective date pushed back by 6 months from August 2011 to January 2012. With our requested change included, the bill passed.

9. HB 2187 by Rep. Jason Nelson, R-OKC, and Sen. Cliff Aldridge, R-Midwest City -- proposed to restrict Executive Directors of any licensing agency or group from communicating with licensees about pending legislation. Early we took the lead on working with other groups to oppose this bill. We were successful in that the bill was never heard in the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 2176 by Rep. Jason Nelson, R-OKC, and Sen. Cliff Aldridge, R-Midwest City – was used at the very end of Session to revive the issue of prohibiting Executive Directors from communication with licensees about pending legislation. By now it was very late in the Session and the decision was made to not strongly oppose. The bill did not propose any changes to allowable communications between Association Executive Directors and their association membership. The bill was passed.

10. SB 580 by Sen. Sean Burrage, D-Claremore, and Rep. Dr. Doug Cox, R-Grove -- addresses Electronic Emergency Prescription Kits in Long Term Care Facilities. The bill proposed giving the State Board of Pharmacy full purview and would require the Board to promulgate necessary rules and regulations to implement. We supported this bill and worked with the authors throughout the Session. The bill passed.