

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1057

By: Seikel of the House

and

Williams of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to environmental programs; requesting the Department of Environmental Quality and the Tulsa and Oklahoma City/County Health Departments to conduct a feasibility study of merging the environmental duties of the City/County Health Departments into the Department of Environmental Quality; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in 1993 the Oklahoma Legislature passed legislation consolidating many state environmental agencies, including many environmental responsibilities of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, into a new state agency, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and

WHEREAS, environmental programs historically operated by the City/County Health Departments in Oklahoma City and Tulsa would have been merged into the DEQ had a mechanism been determined to replace millage funding which supports those programs; and

WHEREAS, issues relating to the welfare of City/County Health Department employees, such as salary differential and transportability of retirement benefits were determined to be impediments to the merger; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the City/County Health Departments must often work side-by-side with DEQ employees to address environmental issues in Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT a study of the feasibility of completing the transfer of environmental responsibilities from the Department of Health, specifically the Tulsa and Oklahoma City/County Health Departments, to the Department of Environmental Quality be conducted by those agencies.

THAT a report of that study be submitted to the 2nd Session of the 46th Oklahoma Legislature by February 1, 1998.

THAT the study shall include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

1. A mechanism to replace the millage funding of the City/County Health Department environmental programs;
2. The one-time costs of a merger; and
3. The number of employees transferred and the effects on salary and benefits to those employees.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Gary Cox, Director of the Tulsa City/County Health Department, Dr. Paul Dunegan, Director of the Oklahoma City/County Health Department, and Mr. Mark S. Coleman, Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

46-1-7879

NLM