

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE  
4 RESOLUTION 1032

By: Kiesel

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution opposing certain legislative practices  
8 by the leadership of the Oklahoma State Legislature.

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11 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is projected to have a \$900-  
12 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year; and

13 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature is constitutionally  
14 bound to pass a balanced budget; and

15 WHEREAS, the Republican leadership in both chambers of the  
16 Legislature has failed to hear dozens of bills that would have  
17 addressed issues such as the economy, health care, education, and  
18 unemployment head-on, many of which bills had Democratic authors;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the time allotted to the Legislature to address these  
21 problems during session is brief, given the gravity of many of these  
22 issues; and

1       WHEREAS, with less than two months left in session, the  
2 Republican leadership has failed to lead a single discussion among  
3 legislators on the pending fiscal crisis for the state; and

4       WHEREAS, Speaker of the House Chris Bengé and Senate President  
5 Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee authored legislation to shorten the 2009  
6 legislative term by one week, reducing further the time the  
7 Legislature has for the serious business of the people; and

8       WHEREAS, too much of the time in both legislative chambers has  
9 been wasted on frivolous legislation, including bills that aim to  
10 solve nonexistent problems, redundant bills to address problems that  
11 already have a legal solution, and bills designed to protect narrow  
12 special interests; and

13       WHEREAS, the Legislature has failed to meet self-imposed budget  
14 deadlines, including the April 1 deadline for presenting an  
15 education budget to the Governor; and

16       WHEREAS, despite a budget deficit, dozens of bills with fiscal  
17 impacts have passed in both chambers, including bills to  
18 significantly expand the size of the state government; and

19       WHEREAS, neither Speaker Bengé nor President Pro Tempore Coffee  
20 has displayed fiscal discipline when it comes to salaries for their  
21 own personal staffs.

22       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
23 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

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1        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives condemns the practice  
2 of hearing frivolous resolutions and redundant or unnecessary  
3 legislation before addressing serious and pressing concerns relevant  
4 to the people of Oklahoma.

5        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives calls on leaders in  
6 both chambers of the State Legislature to reexamine the priorities  
7 it places on which legislation receives a hearing given the  
8 abbreviated legislative session.

9        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives should strive for  
10 budgeting priorities that are more consistent with the concerns of  
11 the vast majority of Oklahomans than with the monied special-  
12 interest groups who lobby legislators.

13        THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives will cease hearing  
14 frivolous legislation until such time as real solutions to our  
15 budget crunch, our economic problems, our health care crisis, and  
16 our education needs have been properly addressed.

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18        52-1-7611        CJB        04/01/09

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