



OKLAHOMA RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

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Wrap-up: 2014 Legislative Session

May 27, 2014

To: ORA Members

Fr: Benny Vanatta, ORA Lobbyist

Re: 2014 Legislative Session Comes to End

What a great session the Oklahoma Restaurant Association had in the 2014 legislative session just concluded last Friday. From my viewpoint, the legislature finishing a week early is always a wonderful thing. But more than that, there was not one item during this session harmful to members of our association. There are always items left unfinished, or not taken up at all, but nothing bad happened, and it doesn't get any better than that. When I lobbied for the Oklahoma Press Association, the legendary Director, Ben Blackstock always told me, "Benny you always want to leave a few cuttings on the press room floor". That was his way of saying there is always more your members want than can be gotten, but always leave a few thoughts out there for the next legislative session. One of those was your board's commitment to getting rid of smoking in public places. We introduced a resolution to take to a vote of the people whether they wanted to stop smoking in public places or not. As the session unfolded it was decided to keep that until next session. This year is an election year, and a tough vote for legislators no matter when it is taken. The Governor asked we hold off until a later time also. Below are a few pieces of legislation that were our focus this session.

SB 1023 by Newberry in the Senate, and Speaker Hickman in the House. SB 1023 is legislation the ORA introduced pre-empting Cities and towns from enacting ordinances dealing with minimum wage, or sick leave. This was the first piece of legislation I have ever dealt with personally that passed the Senate, and the House, without an amendment of any kind. It was signed by the Governor without fanfare, and became law. Since that time many questions have been raised about the legislation, but none before it was enacted.

SB 1715 by Holt in the Senate and Grau in the House. SB 1715 was a much-needed piece of legislation that helps restaurateurs in dealing with charity organizations, or public events, and their mixed beverage licenses. It cleans up much of the law dealing with charity, and public events. Previously, it was difficult for members to donate liquor, and cater food at the same event. It also made it difficult to cater public events. Members are going to find the law to be very beneficial to them.

HB 2711 by Jolley of the Senate and McNeil of the House. HB 2711 will be a boon for tourism, and events in this state benefiting our members. It cleaned up the law enabling cities to reap bonus sales tax funds for hosting events. The law was in place before HB 2711, but was very unclear about how to reward cities and towns for the hosting, and therefore no bonus funds had been given, even though the law to do so was in place.

Always the best feeling comes from defeating legislation that would harm the industry. **SB 512** would have combined the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics with the ABLE Commission. **HB 2884** would have required country of origin labeling on food sold.

It was a good session. Thank you for letting me represent you for the 24th year.

Help Center

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What's Happening



([http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?](http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=25622)

[eventid=25622](http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=25622))

Chefs to Stay in Home Cities for July's Odyssey de Culinare Dinners

4.23.2014

(<http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=25622>)



([http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?](http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=25619)

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Oklahoma Restaurant Convention & Expo Set for Aug. 27-28

5.20.2014

(<http://mms.okrestaurants.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=25619>)



(<http://www.americaworkshere.org/we-are-restaurants>)

Your Restaurant Profile within the Industry

7.17.2014

(<http://www.americaworkshere.org/we-are-restaurants>)



([http://www.okrestaurants.com/news_manager.php?](http://www.okrestaurants.com/news_manager.php?page=13465)

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(<http://www.restaurant.org/News-Research/News/Online->

Online Ordering Guide Can Help Drive Web, Mobile Traffic

4.23.2014

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3800 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

Website by Vieth Consulting (<http://www.viethconsulting.com>)



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