

## OVERVIEW OF 2013 SESSION

The 2013 Oklahoma Legislative Session convened on January 8, 2013, for its biennial organizational day, and then reconvened in regular session on February 4 and adjourned sine die on May 24, 2013, a week earlier than the constitutionally mandated date. The Senate welcomed eight new members to the 54<sup>th</sup> Legislature: Senators Larry Boggs, Corey Brooks, Nathan Dahm, Kyle Loveless, Ron Sharp, Wayne Shaw, Jabar Shumate and Rob Standridge. The leadership team of Senator Brian Bingman, President Pro Tempore, Senator Mike Schulz, Majority Floor Leader and Senator Sean Burrage, Democratic Floor Leader, was reelected. The Legislature considered 2,557 bills and joint resolutions, of which 188 Senate measures and 235 House measures became law. Governor Mary Fallin vetoed 17 measures.

General appropriations for state government for fiscal year 2014 were included in HB 2301. The Legislature also passed significant reforms relating to workers' compensation (SB 1062) and state infrastructure planning (HB 1910), as well as an income tax measure that included tax relief and apportionment of income tax revenues to a fund to repair and renovate the State Capitol.

Other Senate leadership agenda items passed in 2013 include:

### *Job Creation and Economic Development*

1. *Enact wholesale reform of Oklahoma's workers' compensation system*
  - a. **SB1062** by Sen. Bingman (Signed by Governor) – Oklahoma's workers' compensation system is transformed from a judicial to administrative system.
2. *Reduce the tax burden on families, individuals, and businesses*
  - a. **HB2032** by Sen. Bingman (Signed by Governor) – Reduces the top income tax rate from 5.25% to 4.85% in phases starting in 2015.
  - b. **SB330** by Sen. Sykes (Signed by Governor) - Allows for individuals and businesses affected by tornados in May 2013 to claim various tax credits in their effort to recover from the disaster.
3. *Reform Oklahoma's pension system to ensure we can meet our commitments in the future*
  - a. **HB2078** by Sen. Mazzei (Signed by Governor) – Changes retirement age and vesting period for the Firefighters Pension and Retirement System. Also increases the employer and employee contribution amount as well as Insurance Premium Tax collections. The changes result in actuarial savings to the system.

### *Education*

1. *Support and fund historic education reforms*
  - a. **HB1658** by Sen. Jolley (Signed by Governor) – Modifies the A-F school grading system in an effort to provide a complete accounting of school performance.