

ACEC OKLAHOMA UPDATE - March 13, 2020

2020 Legislature Hits Half Way Mark Full Legislative Report and Bill Tracking List Attached Below

The 2020 Legislative Session hit the half-way mark on Thursday, March 12th as bills had to be out of the "House of Origin" by that date.

As reported a couple of weeks ago, with both new bills and "carry overs" from 2019, there were over 4,500 bills available for action. When the Committee deadline passed two weeks ago, that number dropped to just over 1,400 since bills not heard in Committee before that deadline became "dormant" for the balance of the session.

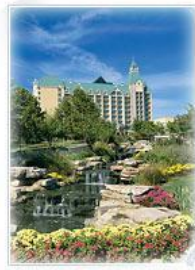
Both the House and Senate spent the last two weeks doing "floor" work, acting on 50-75 bills a day in each chamber. With the passing of yesterday's deadline, some 300 bills were not acted on and became "dormant" for the rest of the year.

It's been a good two weeks for ACEC OKLAHOMA as our two major initiatives for the session**Indemnification/Duty to Defend** reform, and, making **Peer Review** records privileged information....both passed the House by wide margins. Both bills now move to the Senate for further consideration.

HB 1546 was introduced at ACEC OKLAHOMA's request and will make Indemnification & Duty to Defend clauses in public contract void and unenforceable. **Passed House by a vote of 83-11.**

HB 2880 was also introduced at ACEC OKLAHOMA's request, and would provide liability protection to firms which perform "Peer Review" services for other design professionals. The bill would make Peer Review records "privileged information" and not discoverable or admissible in court. **Passed House by vote of 90-3.**

Save the Date for ACEC Midwest States Conference



The ACEC Midwest State Conference (joint meeting with ACEC Missouri, ACEC Kansas, and ACEC Oklahoma) is scheduled for **June 7-9, 2020** at the Chateau on the Lake in Branson.

We changed the format up a little for this meeting. This will now go from Sunday evening to Tuesday afternoon. We are finalizing speakers/programs for the conference and will send registration information out once that's completed.

Please put these dates on your calendar on plan to join us in Branson.



In Memory Joe Pitts

ACEC OKLAHOMA is saddened to report the passing of Joe Pitts, 92, former President of Poe and

Associates.

Joe was President of ACEC OKLAHOMA (then known as the Consulting Engineers Council of Oklahoma) in 1989-1990, and later served as ACEC National Director from Oklahoma.

A 1951 graduate of Oklahoma State University in mechanical engineering, Joe was as member of the 1946 NCAA National Championship basketball team coached by the legendary Henry Iba. He served in the

SB 1775 by Senate President Pro Tem Greg Treat would have consolidated the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority into the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. However, Senator Treat amended the bill on the Senate floor to remove the consolidation requirement, and instead authorizes the two agencies to contract with each other for personnel, equipment, and other resources. ODOT & OTA will retain their separate identities, powers, and duties. These changes have been fully approved and endorsed by Governor Stitt, who Wednesday at the TRUST legislative event thanked both Treat & Secretary Tim Gatz for their work on this initiative.

THANKS for your great responses to our recent "LEGISLATIVE ALERTS" on the Indemnification and Peer Review bills. Regardless of how hard we work a bill inside the Capitol, your "grassroots" contacts....telling your legislator your personal story....always makes a difference.

To see our **full Legislative Report** on the first half of the session as well as the ACEC OKLAHOMA Tracking List of bills that are still alive, [click here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Board & General Membership Meeting (Dinner)
2:00pm Board Meeting;
5:00pm General Meeting & Dinner
Tulsa

April 25-29, 2019

ACEC Annual Convention
Washington, DC

Thursday, May 7, 2020

ODOT/ACEC OKLAHOMA Partnering Conference
Marriott Southern Hills - Tulsa

June 7-9, 2020 (Sunday – Tuesday)

ACEC Midwest States Annual Convention,
Chateau on the Lake, Branson, MO

United State Army as an M.P. in Korea during the occupation period after World War II. He returned to active duty in 1951 as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Signal Corps.

After his military service, Joe works for several different chemical companies before joining Poe and Associates in 1975. During his 22 year career with Poe, due to his superior management skills coupled with excellent managers, engineers, and technicians, Poe became one of the leading civil engineering consulting firms in Oklahoma.

Always an outstanding athlete, Pitts began playing tennis, winning many singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles tournaments. In 2004, he and his playing partner won the USTA National Men's 75 Indoor Doubles National Championships. Joe was inducted into the Oklahoma Tennis Hall of Fame in 2008.

ACEC OKLAHOMA extends our deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret, daughter Becky, and the entire family.

ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit

The ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held April 25-29 in Washington, DC.

This is always an outstanding convention, which includes both great educational programs for firms of all sizes and the opportunity to meet with the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation as we visit our Senators and Representatives in their offices on Capitol Hill.

ACEC OKLAHOMA encourages all members to attend this important event.

For more information regarding hotel reservations, registration, and a the full convention schedule, visit the ACEC website ([Click Here](#)).

We hope you will join us in Washington, DC, April 25-29.



ACEC
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Let's Connect:

