

(Continued)

drick suggested Monson strike the bill's title, allowing her to consider other options.

"Maybe we need to further specify in this bill that we are talking about severe mental illness and not a divorced couple who needs counseling," Monson said, agreeing to cripple the bill's title.

"If you are a diabetic, you need insulin. We don't question that," she said. "If you have one of these illnesses, there are things that you need."

The measure and its emergency clause passed with a vote of 32 to 14. The bill will now be taken up by members of the House for their consideration.

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## **"POOR PERSONS" ACT RECEIVES AMENDMENT ADDRESSING FRAUD**

**By Marta McCloskey**  
**Staff Writer**

■(GIT) Committee substitute for HB2978, an act relating to poor persons was read today on the House floor by Rep. Opio Toure, D-Oklahoma City, author of the bill. Rep. Bill Graves, R-Oklahoma City, offered an amendment to the bill stating that persons guilty of welfare fraud shall be excluded from receiving any assistance.

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, asked Graves to amend the amendment for individuals who did not commit "purposeful" welfare fraud.

Graves said he would not be open to such an amendment because fraud is willful. Pettigrew further explained his proposed amendment to Graves. "It could be an accident... someone could accidentally fill out a form wrong," he said. "That is not fraudulent."

The amendment to the amendment failed. However, Graves' amendment passed. The bill, would also establish a welfare-to-work program. The measure passed 96 to 0 with an emergency clause.

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## **DHS BILL ON CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS PASSES**

**By Shawn Ashley**  
**Staff Writer**

■(GIT) A bill approved by the Senate on Tuesday would allow anyone, including Hell's Angels, to bid for the collection of child support on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

SB1247, authored by Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, would allow DHS to contract with anyone willing to bid on child support collection services. The bill would also establish auditing procedures to help ensure that the money that was collected is appropriately distributed.

Senator Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City, asked Cain whether the bill would allow for "anybody" to bid for the services, including Hell's Angels, who Herbert described as "good collectors."

"Nobody owes them any money," Herbert said.

Cain said the bill did not restrict anyone from bidding for the service.

Cain said the law would be especially helpful in areas where child support collections were low. Those areas, he said, would be primary targets for the bidding of child support collections.

"This bill does not change the way payments are collected at present, but it does give DHS another tool or option in the collection of the payments."

The bill received a passing vote of 36-9 with the title stricken.