

(Continued)

title.

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.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/05/96

"POOR PERSONS" ACT RECEIVES AMENDMENT ADDRESSING FRAUD

■(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 explained, "It could be an accident...someone could accidentally fill out a form wrong."

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.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/05/96

DHS BILL ON CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS PASSES

■(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."

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. "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.

FROM: SHAWN ASHLEY

DATE: 03/05/96

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION BILL ADVANCES

■(GIT) Efforts to win approval of a bill designed to clarify questions about the statute of limitations on child support collections moved forward Wednesday with the 36-9 approval of Senate Bill 1175.

Authored by Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, the bill made its second appearance on the Senate floor in as many days. Cain had the measure laid over Tuesday because of concerns related to another provision in the bill dealing with liens on real property.

Cain admitted today that some discussion was still necessary to clarify the real property lien provision and urged senators to approve the measure.

Senator Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, argued that some statute of limitations was needed on child support collections to avoid fraud and the fleecing of the elderly.

Senator J.R. Wilkerson, D-Atwood, said courts throughout the state are currently in a quan-

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