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dary because there is no clear law concerning the statute of limitations on child support collections.

Responding to a question, Cain said passage of the bill would mean that someone judged to owe child support would owe that money until it was paid in full. As debate on the measure progressed, however, Cain seemed to be in agreement with those who suggested a limit on the number of years after the child turns 18 might be appropriate.

"If you want to limit it to a certain number of years after the child turns 18, that's okay with me," Cain said. "What I don't want to see is someone elude paying child support for five or six years and the state not be able to collect.

"If they come back to town and they've got a wad of money in their pocket, they should know they're going to have to pay."

FROM: SHAWN ASHLEY

DATE: 03/06/96

BROWN PSYCHOLOGY BILL FAILS

■(GIT) Senate lawmakers Wednesday shot down a measure creating a new class of mental health professional. SB1221, by Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, would have created the classification of "master psychologist" for those having completed a master's program in psychology, allowing them to practice and treat patients.

The bill also would have created an advisory committee, placing it under the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The committee would advise the board on matters relating to licensure, practice and investigations.

Dr. Bob Sanders, assistant commissioner for the Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, said, while those qualified for the master psychologist level are useful, further education is needed before they should be allowed to practice.

Currently, psychologists must go through extensive testing, completing lengthy educational and personal therapy assessments. Those at the master's level are not required to meet those requirements.

"I think this is a bill whose time has not come," said Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City.

Psychology Board Chairman, Dr. Arlene Schaeffer said, though she could not speak for the board, her own professional opinion reflected those of Sanders.

A vote of 15 to 31 defeated the measure and closed the door on the estimated 2,000 individuals seeking the title of master psychologist. Brown filed a motion to reconsider, stating he may or may not bring the issue up again.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/06/96

THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISCUSSES CRITICAL FUNDING NEEDS WITH LAWMAKERS

■(GIT) Wednesday, Health Department staff officials explained that salaries of nurses employed by the Health Department compares poorly with that of nurses employed by other state agencies and private businesses. "They work for a few years as a public nurse practitioner, then go straight to home health care companies," Dr. J.R. Nida, Commissioner of Health, explained to members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

Julie Crowder, a nursing student attending the University of Oklahoma, supported Nida's statement.

For the Fiscal Year 1997 appropriation request, the department is asking for \$1,268,324 to aid in salary increases for public health nurses. In fact, the Governor's recommendation matches the department's request. Nurses would receive an additional \$400 a month with the request.

In addition to salary increases for nurses, the department said funding for vaccines and immunizations are not sufficient. Nida told members that approximately 90,000 Oklahoma children

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