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make appointments when necessary, but only with the advice of the Senate. The amendments passed.

Cozort debated against the bill saying it eliminates three appointments by Governor Keating and transfers the power to the Senate Pro Tempore and President of University Center at Tulsa, Rodger Randle. He continued, "I will urge the governor to veto this bill."

Steidley debated in favor of the bill. "This assures some continuity between existing boards and then, only through attrition, the governor will appoint new individuals." He added, "This bill represents innovation, I urge you to support it."

BROWN PSYCHOLOGY BILL FAILS

By Brandon Beard
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■(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.

"You've got a situation with the doctors sitting at the top, not wanting to let anyone else in," Brown said. "Every time we have allowed a level of practice not equivalent to M.D. or Ph.D., it has not done any damage."

Similar situations between ophthalmologists and optometrists and dentists and denturists have recently come before the Legislature, drawing equally split views.

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. "We feel like a person with training at the doctoral level is better prepared to deal with the various personality disorders," he said.

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. "We have the greatest respect for the master's psychologists," Sanders said, "but that is not the whole program." Often, persons at the master's level are used for assessment and diagnostic evaluation purposes.

"I think this is a bill whose time has not come," said Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City. "Maybe in the future, if they raise some of the standards in the program."

Sanders agreed with Cain, saying if the master's program was expanded, increased course work and extended internships would be necessary.

Psychology Board Chairman, Dr. Arlene Schaeffer said, though she could not speak for the board, her own professional opinion reflected those of Sanders. "It has always been the opinion of the National Association of Psychologists that the entry level for psychologists is the doctoral level."

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.