

(Continued)

ending the disease, plus the MS Walks in Lawton, March 23, Oklahoma City March 31, and Tulsa on April 13. The Oklahoma City Walk will be held in Bricktown at 1pm. Registrations for the event will begin at 11 a.m. the same day. For more information, please call 1-800-777-7814.

FROM: OKLAHOMA CHAPTER NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

DATE: 03/28/96

Commerce & Industry

HOUSE COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND LABOR COMMITTEE ADVANCES TWO BILLS

■(GIT) The House Commerce Industry and Labor Committee gave do pass recommendations to the following bills Wednesday:

SB701 by Sen. Helen Cole, R-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Frank Davis, R-Guthrie, prohibiting the sale, delivery or furnishing of low-point beer to an intoxicated person; and

SB702 (as amended) by Sen. Cole and Rep. Davis, providing for penalties for any person selling low-point beer between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

SB867, creating the Oklahoma Barbers Regulation Act, received report progress approval.

FROM: SHAWN ASHLEY

DATE: 03/27/96

PAWNSHOP BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

■(GIT) A measure that would limit the number of pawnshops in the state passed the Senate Committee on Small Business Thursday. **HB2172**, by Committee Chairman James Maddox, D-Lawton, would refuse a pawnshop license to anyone wishing to set up shop in a county with less than 11,000 people. The bill would also prohibit the shops from locating in a county where the number of existing pawnshops exceeds a ratio of one per every 11,000 people. Members passed the measure, 5 to 3, after striking its enacting clause.

Calling the business a form of banking, twelve-year pawnshop owner Andy Eckhard said "fly-by-night" pawnbrokers are taking advantage of customers. Many pawnshops open shop with minimal capital, stay in business a few months and leave town with their customer's merchandise.

"I go down the line and I can't think of any business that wouldn't like this kind of bill," said Sen. Mark Snyder, R-Edmond. He said the measure would limit competition among pawnbrokers. "If this passes, I don't want to see the onslaught of businesses that will be here next year saying 'we want the same protection as the pawnbrokers'."

According to Eckhard, Oklahoma has one pawnshop for every 6,200 people, making it the state with the most pawnshops per capita in the nation. The average amount loaned from a pawnshop is \$57.

The bill's House author, Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, said, though he has gotten flack because of it, he makes no apologies for carrying the bill.

The bill, he said, is no different than the state limiting the number of nursing homes, liquor stores or new car dealers.

Passing the House last month by only one vote, Kirby said he expects his bill to have problems in the Senate as well, which is the bill's next stop.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/28/96