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Lawmakers heard debate regarding the acceptance of the report, which closely passed by 51-45.

Upon third reading of the bill, the measure received a passing vote of 82-15 with an emergency clause.

SB1082, authored by Rep. Danny Hilliard, D-Sulphur, grants authority for certain part time employment within specified cities and towns by off duty police officers.

The measure was amended on page 1, by adding a new section 1, and page 4 line 17 and 14. The bill passed with a vote of 95-0 with an emergency clause.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/27/96

EDMONDSON APPLAUDS SUPREME COURT DECISION

■(GIT) Two years ago in district court, Judge Ralph Thomspon ruled that an Oklahoma Ponca Tribe could not sue the state over a gaming compact. The compact would have allowed the tribe to install slot machines on their property.

Wednesday, Attorney General Drew Edmondson announced that the Supreme Court has also ruled in favor of the state's position.

Edmondson said the major impact of the decision defeats the primary argument for those pushing casino gaming.

Edmondson also said the 5 to 4 ruling by the justices was historical. "The direction of the court has generally been in favor of state's rights, however it was close," he said.

Another constitutional issue will hit the state next year when a federal statute becomes effective. Under the statute, only private investigators would be able to obtain drivers' license information on individuals. Edmondson explained that the statute was a product of crimes related to stalking. The state complies with other federal measures to receive federal funding, but not for driving records. "The statute will most likely be challenged," he said.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/27/96

DHS BUDGET STRIPPED OF \$23 MILLION OPEA URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION BY EMPLOYEES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) This last week saw the passage of **SB837**, which dealt a severe blow to the Department of Human Services budget. The issue is this: Governor Keating's advisors propose cutting nearly \$23 million from the DHS Medicaid budget.

Both sides are at a stalemate. Rather than hold up the entire appropriations process, through, the legislature and Governor have taken the \$22.6 million in question, and have put it aside in a special account called the "Medicaid Administrative Cost Fund". Under this arrangement, the Governor can't spend the money and neither can the legislature.

Fortunately, there will be at least one more DHS appropriation bill passed later in the session which could add the \$22.6 million back into DHS budget. For that reason, the Association is calling up every DHS employee to write or call the Governor's office to tell Keating's staff that the \$22.6 million budget cut is not workable and explain that the loss of 400 to 600 field staff will be a disaster not only for Medicaid assistance, but AFDC, Food Stamps and other programs, as well.

FROM: OKLAHOMA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

DATE: 03/27/96

SENATE VOTES — MARCH 28, 1996

■(GIT) Thursday, in addition to legislation, members of Senate voted to confirm three of Governor Frank Keating's appointments to the Board of Regents of Rogers State College.

With a vote of 40 to 0, members confirmed Timothy Best of Skiatook, James Henry Morrison

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