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SB1314, by Anthony, authorizes the granting of home health aid certification under specified circumstances. An amendment to the measure deletes lines 10 through 15 of page two, and replaces it with language requiring competency certification until July, 1997 for those persons under contract with the State Medicaid Agency. The measure received a do pass motion.

SB737, by Rep. Charles Gray, D-Oklahoma City, was laid over.

SB851, by Rep. Dale Wells, D-Cushing, was withdrawn and will not be addressed.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/25/96

50 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE IN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY AT STATE CAPITOL MARCH 28

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Nearly 50 consumer groups, non-profit organizations and several state agencies joined over 500 Oklahomans with disabilities for the second annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day at the State Capitol on Thursday, March 28. The event, which was coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), began at 10:00 a.m. with a concert on the south plaza by the award-winning Oklahoma School for the Blind jazz band from Muskogee.

Awareness day participants and visitors found assistive technology equipment demonstrations and disability-related information at exhibits located inside the Capitol Building on the second and fourth floors.

According to census-based estimates from DRS, approximately 216,000, or 10.8% of working-age Oklahomans living outside institutions have disabilities that impact employment. Only 20 percent of these Oklahomans with disabilities, or 42,500, are employed full-time.

FROM: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DATE: 03/25/96

RYAN LUKE BILL PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE

■(GIT) "We lost thirty-four children to death last year...something in our system isn't working," was the comment from Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, Senate Author of **HB2053**, also known as the Ryan Luke bill. The measure, a committee substitute, modifies requirements for those involved in child abuse and neglect situations. Members passed the measure with a vote of 11 to 0 on Tuesday.

A section of the bill drawing debate related to court monitoring of a family with a case before a court prior to its dismissal. An amendment by Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, attempted to change the requirement to only when deemed necessary by the court.

Concerns that allowing judges such discretion could result in children being placed back into harmful situations in cases where courts decided not to monitor the family.

Hendrick said the amendment was necessary in order "to get resources where we really need them and not requiring a bunch of social workers performing a bunch of ... tasks that are unnecessary."

With the estimated thousands of cases of child abuse and neglect last year, Hendrick said such a requirement would require thousands of social worker visits, even if each family was only visited once a year.

With a vote of 6 to 5, the Hendrick amendment failed.

Another section sparking concern among some members allows DHS, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth or the district attorney to release information about those persons criminally charged in child abuse cases.

Sen. Darryl Roberts, D-Ardmore, called the section an opportunity for "trial by press release."

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