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"There is a problem and we want to fix," Brown said.

Anne Roberts, executive director for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy said the bill represents the culmination of years of work, which, she said, began in 1989, with the creation of the Child Abuse Study Commission.

"Part of their recommendations have been carried out," she said. "The Child Death Review Board and the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council both came from that commission."

The bill's next stop is the Senate floor.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/26/96

LAWMAKERS PASS "PEOPLE FRIENDLY" BILL

■(GIT) Lawmakers passed legislation out of the House Human Services Committee Tuesday that modifies language regarding developmental disabilities, to define "people friendly" wording, according to author Barbara Staggs, D-Muskogee. **SB1097**, modifies and defines language pertaining to Group Homes for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. This measure also creates an interdisciplinary team to determine on-site staffing requirements.

The bill was amended to include stricken language on pages 20 and 39 and did receive a do pass vote.

SB0977, authored by Rep. Michael Tyler, D-Sapulpa, requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to take into consideration rate increases necessary for the adequate treatment of developmentally disabled clients when setting reimbursement rates.

The measure received a do pass vote with the title restored.

SB1135, authored by Rep. Jari Askins, D-Duncan, clarifies references pertaining to food stamp fraud.

The bill received a do pass vote.

SB1177, authored by Rep. Don McCorkell, D-Tulsa, provides that any license holder of a nursing home who has been cited more than three times for deficiencies which lead to enforcement action and penalties, or found to be out of substantial compliance with the requirements of any statute or rule, will not be deemed a person responsible or suitable to operate or direct such a facility.

The measure received a do pass vote with the title restored.

SB1303, authored by Rep. Sean Voskuhl, modifies membership of the Advisory Committee on Medical Care for Public Assistance Recipients.

The measure received a do pass vote.

FROM: HEATHER MYERS

DATE: 03/26/96

BILL ALLOWING AGENCY TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BID REQUIREMENTS RECEIVES APPROVAL

■(GIT) Wednesday, members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services approved a bill to allow the Department of Rehabilitation Services to purchase equipment and other related items without competitive bid requirements. In **HB1555**, the agency would no longer be required to purchase these items through the Department of Central Services. Although, the agency would be required to promulgate purchasing procedures with Central Services approval.

Senate author of the bill, Herb Rozell, D-Tahlequah, said disabled individuals were losing job opportunities due to a backlog at Central Services.

Linda Parker, director for the agency, explained the adaptive technology equipment frequently arrived too late, often taking up to three months.

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