

(Continued)

or recognized by the State Board to approve such a resolution and assure that it is filed with the State Board by August 15, 1996.

This measure, which will affect 20 departments across the state, was amended on page 20, lines 12, 23, and 29 to delete the words "pension and". Also, on page 3, lines 4, and 5 by adding clarifying language.

The bill received a do pass vote.

SB941, authored by Rep. Roberts, clarifies language pertaining to the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma.

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

SB962, authored by Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne, provides for the withdrawal of membership of any participating employer delinquent more than 90 days in paying the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System the contribution due.

In presenting the bill, Chairman Rep. Roberts said the intent of the bill is to allow for a Lattimore County hospital to resign from OPERS.

The measure received a do pass vote.

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

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

HB 1555 Do Pass

HB 3021 Do Pass

■(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, explained why the agency needed the bill. He said disabled individuals were losing job opportunities due to a backlog at Central Services. They need special assistive technology equipment in order to perform required job-related duties.

Linda Parker, director for the agency, explained the adaptive technology equipment frequently arrived too late, often taking up to three months. "Jobs were passing people up, employers needed to fill those positions," she said. "This bill will help speed up the process."

Members voted to do pass the measure out of committee.

HB3021, authored by Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, was also approved by members. It requires individual and group insurance policies to provide coverage for equipment, services and supplies for the treatment of diabetes. "Hopefully we can restore the title and get this bill to the full Appropriations Committee meeting today," Brown said. Senate staff explained that there were minor changes to the bill to help strengthen the language. The most significant changed any policies issued or renewed after Nov. 1, 1996, not policies withstanding, as previously stated in the bill.

The subcommittee did not hear the budget presentation from the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

"The eyes are not responsible when the mind does the seeing."

Publilius Syrus