

(Continued)

ing with each other. The second, offered by Rep. Dan Ramsey, R-Chickasha, restricted projects to highways. The last amendment, offered by Dunlap, would restrict bond money from being added to the fund. "I am trying to protect the fees turnpike users pay," he explained.

SB988, authored by Rep. James Dunegan, D-Calera, requires to the Department of Transportation to issue permits for multi-state oversize and overweight vehicles. It designates specific routes for vehicles operating under such permits. It was amended by the author to allow the Department to adopt rules. The bill received a do pass vote of 24 to 0.

One resolution was approved. **SJR35**, authored by Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, designates a portion of Oklahoma State Highway 74 as "The John N. 'Happy' Camp Memorial Highway." The resolution received a do pass vote of 24 to 0.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION BILL RAISES CONCERNS IN SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

HB 2231 (CS) Do Pass
HB 2251 (CS) Do Pass,
Title Struck
HB 2261 (CS) Do Pass,
Amended
HB 2393 Do Pass, Title
Struck
HB 2501 (CS) Do Pass,
Amended
HB 2648 (CS) Do Pass
HB 2802 Do Pass
HB 2806 Do Pass
HB 2953 Do Pass
HB 2960 (CS) Do Pass,
Title Struck
HB 2964 (CS) Do Pass
HB 2982 (CS) Do Pass,
Amended
HB 2986 (CS) Do Pass,
Amended

■(GIT) A bill designed to help identify so-called at-risk families faced some criticism Tuesday during a meeting of the Senate's Human Resources Committee.

The committee substitute for **HB2393** is designed to help identify infants and their families who might benefit from existing social services and to encourage voluntary home visits, Senate author Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, told the committee.

"It would help to identify social and health factors that might suggest that a family would benefit from existing services," Monson said, adding that the screening process would hopefully be conducted at the time of birth of a child.

That raised the eyebrows of Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, who expressed concern that implementing the plan might increase the cost of giving birth.

"The bill mandates that this survey will be given if the parent wants it," Hendrick explains. That means, he added, that the hospital would have to be prepared to offer the state-prepared survey, thereby incurring new costs. "It means services increase and that could mean costs do, too."

Monson replied that administering the proposed survey would take only a few minutes.

While her answer appeared to satisfy Hendrick, it did little to allay the fears of Sen. Carol Martin, D-Comanche, who expressed concern over the possible intrusiveness of the survey and its results.

"Aren't you talking about assessing some people for possible social problems and defects and then having someone stand over them in judgment?" she asked. "That bothers me. It's like the idea that your nose begins where my freedom ends. In my opinion, it looks like we'd be being too nosy."

Several members, however, argued that the measure was, as Hendrick said, "a great way to make parents aware of a problem that they might otherwise not know existed. I see a real value to doing this type of screening."

Hendrick went on to reiterate his earlier concern, adding that survey should be as simple as possible.

The measure received a do pass recommendation with the bill's title being stricken.

In other business before the committee, the following measures also received do pass recommendations:

HB2231 (committee substitute), by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, and Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, creating the Family Centered and Community Designed Services Act;

HB2251 (committee substitute with its title stricken), by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. William Paulk, D-Oklahoma City, modifying language in the Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services Act related to ambulances and mediserve transport vehicles;

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