

FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1996

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The House considered the following measures on Wednesday:

HB2348, authored by Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, which provides coverage requirements for health benefit plans as they relate to maternity coverage, received a passing vote of 95-0 with an emergency clause, following the adoption of the bill's second conference committee report. Roach noted that the bill, which he had hoped to have considered on Monday, now includes provisions from other similar bills.

HR1066, authored by Rep. Robert Weaver, D-Shawnee, which commends and thanks the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was adopted by unanimous consent.

SB7, authored by Rep. Gary Bastin, D-Del City, which creates refueling service for

the disabled; requires service stations and like facilities to offer self-serve prices to disabled and Requires Corporation Commission to provide notices and rules, was the most hotly debated item on Wednesday's House agenda.

At the urging of Rep. Odilia Dank, R-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Richard Phillips, R-Warr Acres, the House voted 49-49 against accepting the bill's conference committee report.

Dank argued that the bill imposed what she hoped to be an unnecessary requirement on service stations, while Phillips argued that service stations would be providing an additional service without the benefit of payment.

That led Phillips to ask that the bill be returned to conference committee with instructions for language to added that would allow service stations to submit an invoice to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for repayment of the difference in the cost of self service gas and full service gas pumped into vehicle affected by the proposed law. That motion, however, failed by a 12-84 vote.

Dank followed with a similar motion to instruct the conferees to change the word "shall" to "may" on page 2, line 10 of the bill. That motion received a 93-0 passing vote.

That means the bill will be returned for further conference committee consideration.

SB836, authored by Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, changing the name of Seminole Junior College to Seminole State College, received a passing vote of 94-0 following the acceptance of the conference committee substitute.

SB871, authored by Rep. Jim Glover, D-Elgin, which states that the governing body of a municipality may authorize the CEO of the municipality to respond to any request from any other jurisdiction within one state for law enforcement assistance in cases of emergency, received a passing vote of 94-0 with an emergency clause after the adoption of its conference committee report.

SB1017, authored by Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, which states that the Troop Commander in charge of a highway patrol troop may designate specified portions of federal aid primary highways and the state highway system in the service area of the troop, received a passing vote of 56-34 without debate. The bill's emergency clause failed by a 52-39 vote.

SB1167, authored by Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, which provides regulations relating to simulcast races and fair associations licensed to conduct race meeting; clarifies days considered racing days; provides for percentage of winnings to be received from wagering and provides for distribution of such moneys and states that Oklahoma does not conduct live racing, received a passing vote of 71-25 with an emergency clause, following the acceptance of the conference committee substitute. The substitute, Steidley explained, changed only the provisions dealing with non-thoroughbred racing days.

Expected to be the hot issue of the day, the bill generated no debate.

In other action, the conference committee reports for the following House measures were rejected and further conferences granted: **HB2055** and **HB2294**.

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ing as the governing body is a contradiction of the separation of powers in the state.

Brown contradicted by saying, "A lot of people call this the 'Ryan Luke Bill' or the 'Shane Coffman' bill. But we lose in our memory the other 32 who we know died. It saddens me that at least 34, and possibly twice that, died at the hands of their caretakers, and thousands more were injured."



Sen. Ben Brown

"This bill is not going to solve the problem, and I wish I could wave a magic wand and the problem would be gone. But it is to the point we have to do something, or nothing.

"There's a lot of good people doing the best they can to help these kids. I know there will be another year to address this problem, but in that year, how many kids will die? This is just one more piece of the puzzle."

Members of the Senate adopted the conference committee report and passed the measure with a vote of 47-1, with Pierce being the only opposing vote.

Later in session however, Brown made the motion to reconsider the vote in which the measure passed at a later legislative date. He has three days to bring the bill up again, or the bill will die.



"Hold that position, we aren't finished with the budget yet."