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Members adopted the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 44 to 0.

HJR1109, by Rep. Bob Ed Culver, D-Tahlequah, disapproves certain rules of the Oklahoma State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

Members adopted the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 44 to 1.

SB622, by Sen. Larry Dickerson, D-Poteau, modifies various provisions pertaining to the needs of people with severe disabilities.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 48 to 0.

SB823, by Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, appropriates funds and sets budgetary limitations for the Department of Commerce.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 37 to 4.

SB846, by Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, appropriates funds related to public employees' compensation.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 43 to 0.

SB910, by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, clarifies language relating to the Oklahoma State Education Employees Group Insurance Act, the Oklahoma State Employees Benefits Act and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Act.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, the measure failed, receiving a vote of 23 to 19.

SB1032, by Sen. Rick Littlefield, D-Grove, allows any eligible employer of a municipality which is a participating employer in the Oklahoma Public Employees Pension and Retirement System on July 1, 1996 to become a participating municipality of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System on Sept. 1 1996, only if a certified copy of a resolution approved by the governing body of the eligible employer or by any other body or officer authorized by law 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. Such election shall be irrevocable. States additional eligibility requirements.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure

and its emergency clause with a vote of 47 to 0

SB1225, by Sen. Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow, adds definitions relating to environment and natural resources. It expands the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission to include recipients of nonpoint pollution funds and states the availability of related revolving funds.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 35 to 11.

SCR74, by Sen. Dave Herbert, D-Mid-

west City, commends Delmas Ford for his many years of distinguished public service.

Members adopted the measure unanimously.

Members also adopted **SCR75** and **SR62**.

Members also rejected the conference committee reports for **SCR54**, **HB2960** and **SB993**, requesting further conference.

Further conference was granted on **SB989** and **HBs 2250** and **2374**.

The Senate is scheduled to convene at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 30, 1996.

NATIONAL HEALTH EXPENDITURES, 1994

From the Health Care Financing Administration

■(WASHINGTON) The National health expenditures rose to \$949.4 billion in 1994, a 6.4 percent increase from 1993, the Health Care Financing Administration reported. In 1994, health spending amounted to a stated average of \$3,510 per person, \$179 more than in the previous year.

The 1994 increase in health expenditures was the slowest growth rate recorded in more than three decades. Between 1988 and 1992, double digit and near double digit growth occurred in aggregate health care spending. However, health expenditure growth slowed to 7 percent in 1993 and 6.4 percent in 1994.

Slower growth in health spending, combined with healthy growth in the gross domestic product (GDP), led to only a small increase in health care spending as a share of GDP: from 13.6 percent in 1993 to 13.7 percent in 1994. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced in the United States.

Public spending:

In 1994, the public share of health spending increased to 44.3 percent from 43.4 percent in 1993. Medicare accounted for 40.2 percent of the public share and Medicaid (including state funds) for 30.7 percent.

From 1969 to 1993, growth in spending for benefits by the two largest private and public payers—private health insurance and Medicare—was comparable. However, in 1994, private health insurance grew 4 percent, while Medicare expenditures increased 11.8 percent. However, when enrollment growth, benefit coverage and policy effect are factored in, Medicare's growth rate is more comparable to that of private payers.

Medicare:

While private and Medicare benefit

growth rates appear unusually far apart, certain factors tended to exaggerate the growth rate of Medicare benefits, especially in 1994. These factors include enrollment growth, benefit coverage, and government regulatory and policy effects.

When adjustments are made for these factors, the difference between Medicare and private health insurance growth narrows considerably, to 5.6 percent per enrollee for Medicare and 3.6 percent per enrollee for private health insurance.

In 1994, the Medicare program spent \$166.1 billion for benefits, accounting for 20 percent of total personal health care spending. Medicare provided health coverage for 36.9 million aged and disabled persons.

Medicaid:

Combined federal and state spending on Medicaid totaled \$122.9 billion for personal health care in 1994, which accounted for 14.8 percent of total personal health care spending. Since 1992, growth in Medicaid spending has been decelerating, slowing to 7.7 percent in 1994. The federal share of Medicaid spending for personal health care was \$78.4 billion in calendar year 1994, while the state and local share was \$44.5 billion. Legislation that imposed state limits on disproportionate share hospital payments and recent deceleration in beneficiary growth seem to have helped control growth in Medicaid program expenditures.

"No favored class should demand freedom from assessment, and the taxes should be so distributed as to not fall unduly on the poor, but rather on the accumulated wealth of the country."

Andrew Johnson
Dec. 4, 1865