

Appropriations, continued from page 1
being appropriated to the Office of Civil Emergency Management, into which the office will be placed by **HB1783**.

Also approved by the House after their release from conference committee were **HBs 1783, 1792 and 1815**.

HB1783 appropriates funds to the Department of Civil Emergency Management, the State Fire Marshal and the Oklahoma Military Department.

Under the terms of the bill, the Department of Civil Emergency Management will receive the following appropriations in addition to the funds set aside for the agency earlier this year:

- \$10,780 for the employee salary increase and \$1,496 for the OPERS increase;
- \$15,916 for an Emergency Area Coordinator;
- \$8,985 for an Individual Assistance Officer; and
- \$50,000 for the Volunteerism Office transfer.

The Volunteerism Office is being transferred to the Civil Emergency Management Department from the Secretary of State's office. As a result, the secretary's office is losing the funding for the organization.

The bill also appropriates a total of \$227,326 to the State Fire Marshal's Office, including:

- \$32,886 for the employee salary increase and \$3,135 for the OPERS increase;
- \$141,305 to replace the office's carryover funds; and
- \$50,000 for a code enforcement officer.

The Oklahoma Military Department will receive an additional appropriation of

\$995,960 under the terms of the bill, including:

- \$127,540 for the employee pay raise and \$10,575 for the OPERS increase;
- \$200,000 for maintenance and repair;
- \$5,000 for operation of the 45th Museum;
- \$599,306 for the department's youth academy; and
- \$53,539 for Starbase.

In addition, the department will receive \$20,000 in reappropriated money from the treasurer's office for hosting the Adjutant General Association of the United States' annual conference. The money for maintenance and repair is being reappropriated from the State Election Board, according to the bill.

Appropriations in **HB1792** include \$96,392 to the Merit Protection Commission and \$527,718 to the Office of Personnel Management.

The bulk of the money appropriated to the Merit Protection Commission — \$81,039 — will be used to restore funds from last fiscal year's reduction. The remainder of the money will go toward the employee pay raise and associated OPERS increase.

In addition to the \$158,772 set aside for the pay and OPERS increase for the Office of Personnel Management workers, the agency will receive \$175,000 for employee compensation reform, \$125,000 for its employee assistance program and \$68,946 for its agency service unit.

HB1815 appropriates nearly \$2.5 to the Department of Central Services, including \$308,708 for the employee pay raise and OPERS increase, \$1.7 million for debt service on 1995 bonds and \$400,000 for replacement of the agency's asbestos removal revolving funds.

The bill also allows the department to spend up to \$548,775 from the Motor Vehicle Liability Account to provide salaries and administrative expenses; \$274,637 from the Risk Management Participation Revolving Fund and \$42,666 from the Oklahoma Motor License Agent Indemnity Fund for salaries and administrative expenses of the Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Exempted from budgetary limits by the bill are expenditures from the Risk Management Revolving Fund.

Those measures now move to the Senate for consideration.

More funding bills are expected to move from GCCA onto the House and Senate floors on Wednesday, possibly including the

long-awaited education appropriations. The House subcommittee for education appropriations went into a closed-door meeting following Tuesday's adjournment.

Ombudsman, continued from page 1

further conference committee consideration.

The dispute over the ombudsman program began earlier this month when Rep. Abe Deuschendorf, D-Lawton, first attempted to bring the bill containing the program out of conference. The conference committee report for that bill, **HB2407**, was rejected, and at the urging of Rep. Dan Webb, R-Oklahoma City, was returned to conference with instructions.

Additional wording included in the instructions called for the state health department to establish minimum safety standards for free-standing abortion clinics. The bill later died in conference.

Ironically, the same rules concerning free-standing abortion clinics were included in instructions for a conference committee report approved by the House on Tuesday.

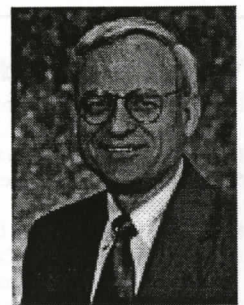
By voice vote, House members ordered **SB1290** returned to conference committee and instructed the committee to add language allowing the department of health to set minimum safety standards for abortion clinics and to set and enforce a penalty for those clinics violating the standards.

SB1290, by Rep. Calvin J. Anthony, D-Stillwater, would have directed the health department to establish rules regarding the establishment of provider service networks.

This time, it was Rep. Forrest Claunch, R-Midwest City, who proposed and won approval for the instructions concerning the abortion clinic rules.

And much like when the instructions were given for Deuschendorf's bill, House members asked whether Claunch was willing to see Anthony's bill die as a result of the instructions.

"I don't think the language the bill contains is more important than the language in this amendment," Claunch replied. "I don't see how rules for provider networks can be more important than the lives of women."



Rep. Forrest Claunch

Capitol Network News

A division of

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