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kind of deal," Anthony said in response to the charges. "Members of the conference committee have sweated blood to make this thing work."

"This bill does contain reform — It gives local school districts the power they need to do the things they need to do."

Some 20 minutes after consideration of the bill had begun, the measure received a 72-23 passing vote.

That meant 27 minutes remained before the close of the legislative session — Enough time to deal with four more bills.

House members then considered **SB989**, a previously controversial measure creating a State Infrastructure Bank for the purpose of pooling available federal, state, and private moneys to be dedicated for transportation infrastructure improvements. The so-called bank will be part of a federal pilot program in which Oklahoma was one of 10 states chosen to participate. The bill received a 99-0 passing vote.

With less than 20 minutes remaining in the session, **SB1200** took center stage. Once written to implement a statewide community corrections program, the bill was rewritten Friday afternoon to include community corrections and a truth in sentencing proposal. The 93-page bill had already won Senate approval, but its fate would be different in

the House.

As opposition to the proposal appeared to be mounting during Duncan Democrat Rep. Jari Askins' brief explanation of the bill, a previous question motion was made upon her completion of the explanation. The motion passed and House members then summarily dismissed the bill's fourth conference committee report, giving it a 25-71 failing vote.

Action on the bill, which had taken an estimated three hours to rewrite in the early afternoon, took less than three minutes.

House members then turned their attention to **HB2823**, which implements the mid-term funding solution for the 1995-96 school year, and quickly adopted the bill by a vote of 91-4.

The final measure brought before the House might have been one of its more hotly debated had the circumstances surrounding its consideration been different. But with fewer than 15 minutes remaining before *sine die*, **SB801** which included a voluntary school-to-work proposal drew little more than a sideways glance from those on the floor.

Reese noted that the General Conference Committee on Appropriations sign out sheet for the bill, which primarily implements funding already approved for common education and had not been considered during a

meeting of the conference committee, lacked signatures from any of the committee's Republican members. That was because, GCCA chairman Hamilton said, the bill had been signed out on the floor.

As members quickly read through the provisions of the bill, Reese asked for an explanation of the bill's sixth section, the school-to-work provision. Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, revealed to boos from some members that the provision was in fact a school-to-work provision, requiring parental consent for a student's participation.

Democrats used the previous question maneuver to avoid debate of acceptance of the conference committee report and final passage of the bill. Acceptance of the conference committee report passed on a 64-30 vote, while final passage of the bill was won on a 64-31 vote.

An attempt to win passage of the bill's emergency clause failed, 65-32.

Three minutes remained in the session.

Once order was restored in the House chamber, which had grown through the afternoon to resemble the raucous British House of Commons, and House Majority Leader Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, had made a few final and brief remarks, the majority leader moved to adjourn "*sine-eeeeee die-eeeeee*."

The official time was 4:59.

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Dickerson said that more than 2,000 Oklahomans die each year from serious injuries. He said that number could be reduced if the statewide trauma system was in place.

"Just from looking at other states that do have comprehensive trauma systems, we know we could reduce Oklahoma's trauma facilities by some 20 percent," he said. "When you look at the medical cost and productivity, we could save an estimated \$133 million."

"In light of all these facts, I don't see how the governor can justify this \$75,000 veto. It just doesn't make sense, especially when the money is there to do this."

By vetoing section 32 of **SB810**, just over \$1.4 million was cut from the University Hospitals Authority, part of which was to fund the state's Poison Control Center.

The Poison Control Center's budget was also vetoed last year by the governor. The University Hospitals Authority had to divert funds to carry the center another year.

The vetoed funds this year were to go toward hiring additional staff, which are des-

perately needed, one lawmaker said.

"In 1995, more than 19,000 phone calls went unanswered," said Sen. Ben Robinson, D-Muskogee. "When the calls can be answered promptly, we can save lives and save money in terms of emergency room costs for individuals and tax dollars, because often the person who's been exposed to a toxic substance doesn't have insurance."

Robinson added that the 4 out of every 10 calls to the center are related to cases involving children under the age of five.

All told, the Senate saw vetoes totaling \$37.1 million.

In the House, Democrats tried unsuccessfully to override gubernatorial line-item vetoes on three bills, in addition to the effort on **SB802**.

Democrats argued that the governor was keeping important funds from key state agencies, as well as reneging on his promise to fund the employee pay raise. Republicans countered that the governor was looking at what one lawmaker called "the big budget picture" and that he did not like what he was seeing.

The attempt to override the governor's line item veto of section four of **HB1783** saw two Republicans defect from the ranks. Although the bid fell short of the two-thirds vote needed to override the veto, 66-32, Reps. Todd Heitt, R-Kellyville, and Tony Kouba, R-Yukon, broke ranks and voted with 64 Democrats in favor of overriding the veto.

The section would have provided additional funding to the State Fire Marshal's office, including approximately \$36,000 for the state employee pay raise and OPERS increase.

Also sustained by a 64-35 vote of the House was the governor's veto of sections 17 and 20 in **HB1795**. Section 17 would have provided \$176,688 for the Department of Mines, while section 20 allocated \$450,000 for the MESONET weather system.

Keating's line items vetoes of three sections of **SB814**, appropriations totaling \$380,000 to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, were also sustained by the House 66-31, with two Republicans joining the effort.