

MORE FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR, MAY 6, 1996

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The media did not escape criticism, as well as praise, on Monday when Rep. Ed Glover, D-Elgin, criticized an Oklahoma City television station for a report claiming to illustrate state waste.

The story showed lawmakers placing copies of conference reports in the aisles and indicated the copies were headed for the trash. Glover noted, however, that the copies placed in the aisles were actually bound for the Senate.

"That saves taxpayers' money," he added, "despite what a local television station wants to say."

Glover also noted that such mistakes were often corrected, usually by the print media.

In legislative action on the House floor on Monday:

HB2086, by Rep. James R. Dunlap, R-Bartlesville, received a passing vote of 96-1. By unanimous consent the bill's conference committee report was adopted, including two Senate amendments that set population standards for cities, towns and counties as the relate to the adoption of written investment policies.

The amendments make the bill apply to cities and towns with populations of more than 5,000 and counties with populations of more than 40,000.

Also receiving approval by a vote of 96-0 was **HB2121**, by Rep. Dale W. Wells, D-Cushing. The bill, which changes the fee and effective date of the special use tax came back to the House in the same form that it left, Wells said. As a result, its conference committee report was accepted.

House members voted 98-0 to pass **HB2278**, by Rep. Gary Bastin, D-Del City, setting minimum requirements for a second or subsequent drug and alcohol substance abuse course for those having had a related revocation or suspension and providing criteria for those under the age of 21. This bill, too, Bastin noted, was returned to the House as it had left, leading lawmakers to adopt the bill's conference committee report.

The conference committee report for **HB2348**, by Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, was rejected and further conference granted. The bill provides coverage requirements for health benefit plans as they relate to maternity coverage, the so-called Drive-Through Delivery Bill.

The conference committee report for

HB2361, allowing investments to be made by banking institution's trust departments, by Rep. Robert E. Weaver, D-Shawnee, was accepted and the bill received a passing vote of 98-0.

HB2470, creating the Oklahoma Prison Industry Marketing Development Advisory Task Force, by Rep. Abe Deutschendorf, D-Lawton, received a passing vote of 97-1 with its conference committee report having been accepted.

HB2637, extending and renaming former game and fish programs, outlining hunting license fees and donation designation requirements, by Rep. Bill Smith, D-Ringling, received a passing vote of 98-0 with its conference committee report accepted.

House members accepted by unanimous consent the conference committee report for **HB2989**. The bill, which received a passing vote of 91-0, creates the Livestock Dealers Act. The bill's author, Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, said no changes had been made to the bill in conference.

The first week of May was designated Suicide Prevention Awareness Week by **HCR1102**, by Rep. Mike Ervin, Wewoka, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

Also adopted by unanimous consent was **HR1053**, a resolution requiring measure numbers and short titles on measures considered by the House to be made available on the Internet, by Rep. Abe Deutschendorf, D-Lawton.

Rep. Bob Plunk, D-Ada, asked for and received unanimous consent adoption of **SCR58**, recognizing the contributions of Ted Bird and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

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money."

Lackey urged the committee to guard against developing another layer of government involvement and to allow successful local programs to continue their work.

Members of the committee expressed a hope to review programs implemented by other states before moving forward in the writing of any further legislation.

The committee is expected to meet again next Monday.

"A successful lawsuit is the one worn by a policeman."
Robert Frost

HOUSE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETS

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The House Committee on Administrative Rule Review met Monday to address the proposed administrative rules for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Failure to attain a working quorum caused **HJR1101** to be laid over. The resolution directed the department to adopt replacement rules, establishing standards for residential care facilities.

The resolution asks for a phase-in period of two years to allow the facilities to come into 100 percent compliance with those rules.

"These are basic requirements," said Anna McBride, an outreach director who represents mentally ill patients.

Brent VanMeter, deputy commissioner for special health services for the Oklahoma Department of Health said setting the immediate compliance rating at 100 percent was unrealistic.

"I don't think the facilities could comply," he said, commenting that such a requirement would require the shutting down of numerous facilities. "Those people would have to go somewhere else."

Committee Chairman Rep. Charles Gray, D-Oklahoma City, said the committee would meet again to address the issue, though he was unsure when.

