

Infant Screening, continued from page 2
sion banning so-called partial birth abortions.

Following a graphic description of the procedure, Graves explained that a similar federal proposal had been vetoed by President Bill Clinton.

Pressed by Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, about the number of partial birth abortions performed in Oklahoma, Graves said he did not know, adding that current law does not require such records to be kept.

"One time is too many," Graves, who has proposed regulations allowing the health department to set minimum safety standards for abortion clinics that would include keeping such records, added.

Greenwood proposed that her instructions for the bill be considered as an amendment to those of Graves', and by unanimous consent, the instructions were adopted as an amendment.

Graves' amended instructions, which then included the partial-birth abortion ban and parents' protection clause, were also adopted by unanimous consent.

Earlier this month, the bill's first conference committee report was rejected for unspecified reasons. One week later, the bill reappeared, this time containing the infant screening provisions, as well as language related to the state's long-term care ombudsman program, a program designed to protect nursing home residents.

That conference committee report, too, was rejected, and the bill returned to conference for additional consideration. A floor ruling removed the ombudsman provision from the bill on the basis that it was not germane, and the conference committee was then instructed to rework the bill's key section — Section 1 — related to the infant identification program.



Rep. Bill Graves

"That's what the American system is all about: to keep power divided, to prevent a small core from either pole suddenly thrusting its decisions on the country."

Charles M. Mathias Jr.
Time, Aug. 23, 1976

TAX EQUITY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Calling it a victory for Oklahoma retirees, Sen. Brad Henry announced today that his tax equity bill has been signed into law.

Governor Frank Keating signed **HB1621** during a Tuesday afternoon ceremony at the State Capitol.

"This is fantastic news for retirees across Oklahoma. This measure gives them the tax relief and equity they deserve," said Henry, D-Shawnee.

Henry is senate author of the measure which extends the same tax deductions government retirees already enjoy to the private sector.

Under **HB1621**, private sector retirees with Oklahoma adjusted gross income of \$25,000 or less would be allowed a deduction of retirement income of up to \$5,500.

The deduction would be phased in over a five-year period. Social Security income is fully exempted.

"Married retirees filing joint returns can also take advantage of the deduction if their Oklahoma adjusted gross income was \$50,000 or less," said Henry. "They would be able to deduct a total of \$11,000."

"I'm sure everyone of us is concerned about making ends meet once we've retired. I believe this bill should give those who are already retired, and those who are approaching retirement, greater peace of mind," said Henry.

Oklahoma retirees can be taking advantage of the new deduction in tax year 1997, for a total of \$1,100. The amount they can deduct will increase by \$1,100 each year after that until it reaches a total of \$5,500.

MORE FROM THE HOUSE FLOOR, TUESDAY, MAY 28

By Shawn Ashley Staff Writer

■(GIT) In an usually short session with only three days remaining before the legislature adjourns sine die, the House considered the following the measures, most with no questions and none with debate:

HB2463, by Rep. James Dunegan, D-Calera, modifying the date to 1997 related to required FTE recommendations from the Human Resources Management Advisory Committee, received a passing vote of 95-0 with an emergency clause following the adoption of its second conference committee report.

HB2960, by Rep. Mark Seikel, D-Harrah, which directs DHS to cooperate with and help promote foster parent associations in each county; provide additional services relating to the placement of children in foster care; develop a policy of accident, personal liability, and automobile liability insurance; and develop a procedure to determine the ability of parents to pay part or all of the costs for foster care, received a 94-2 passing vote with the acceptance of the bill's second conference committee report.

HB2964, which changes the name of the Developmentally or Physically Disabled Persons Community Residential Living Act to the Community Residential Living for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act; transfers jurisdiction to the Department of Human Services; states that any related

rules promulgated by the State Board of Health shall remain in effect until such rules are superseded by rules from the Commission for Human Services; and provides for prior licensure of group homes, by Rep. Seikel, received a passing vote 99-0 following the adoption of its second conference committee report.

HB2969, also by Rep. Seikel, directing the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to amend the state Medicaid plan to provide a funding source for payment of temporary managers or state monitors in facilities certified to provide long-term care services and community-based service provider facility under Medicaid, received a 99-0 passing vote with an emergency clause following the unanimous consent adoption of its conference committee report.

HB2975, prohibiting the requirement for filing paternity affidavits when consent for adoption has been given, by Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, received a 96-0 passing vote with an emergency clause after the adoption of the bill's second conference committee report.

SB921, by Rep. Robert Weaver, R-Oklahoma City, repealing various sections pertaining to sales and incomes taxes, received a 97-0 passing vote with an emergency clause after the adoption of its second conference committee report.

SB996, by Rep. Fred Stanley, D-Madill,

See *House*, page 4