

March 6, 1984

LB 904

Department. Language is also added by the committee amendments to make clear that it's not the intention of 904 to alter any types of services covered by Medicaid reimbursement. Section 4 of the committee amendments sets out a series of minimum requirements that must be contained in any contract or bid specification offered under 904. There's also provision authorizing two or more vendors of health care services to enter in an agreement to contract as a unit with DSS. Finally, the committee amendments would establish the sunset date, July 1, '87 for the Medicaid contracting program. With that, sir, I would move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, the adoption of the amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 904 has been introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee and I do thank the committee for making it into a committee bill. It did result from the committee's task force on affordable and quality health care which I chaired on behalf of the committee and we did do a lot of work over the past year. You've already heard several bills resulting from that task force. This bill in particular has been of great concern to all of us over the last several years as we've seen Medicaid costs in our state budget skyrocket. It has brought the concerns of health care costs to the Legislature through the budget increases we've had to suffer through over the last couple of years. This body has considered the issue. We've tried to struggle with it. We've fought and argued about it, but today I bring you LB 904 through the Public Health and Welfare Committee and that task force and through the cooperation of the health providers in what is, I believe, a consensus bill. The bill was consensus because we did sit down and