

under the act would not be considered lending the credit of the state in the aid of any individual or corporation. There is no fiscal impact and I ask your vote on the bill.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Madam Chairman, members, Senator Smith said most everything I was going to say. Since I said most everything she was going to say to LB 209, I'll just get up and say ditto, but this is an important bill. Senator Pappas ought to be commended for introducing it and Senator Smith for picking it as a priority bill. We do have a problem with our public hospitals being restricted unlike private hospitals from joining together and providing services and other attempts to cut down on their cost. Efficiency is a new byword in our health care delivery system and efficiency can be achieved in many cases through cooperation among the different hospitals and this should be very beneficial to those rural areas in particular, although even in the urban areas, Lincoln General has recently struck a partnership with some of the other Lincoln hospitals. They were able to do it by some difficulty and this bill will ease that difficulty for the smaller hospitals that would find it too much of a barrier to overcome. So I do support LB 61 and think it will be very beneficial and ask your support as well.

SENATOR MARSH: Seeing no other lights, we are now ready to vote on the advancement of LB 61. Senator Marsh voting aye.

CLERK: Senator Marsh voting yes.

SENATOR MARSH: The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance LB 61, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: LB 61 is advanced to E & R. We are now ready for LB 280.

CLERK: 280 was offered by Senators Nelson, Lundy, Vard Johnson, Sieck and Pirsch. (Title read.) The bill was read on January 17 of this year. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for a public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Revenue Committee amendments pending.