

April 4, 1996

LB 1155, 1257

Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wehrbein on the Maurstad amendment.
Senator Robak on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This Maurstad amendment, he did come up to me, we talked it over and Senator Wesely and I worked it out and that's fine with striking the word "local" in what it does. And what my amendment does is...the Wesely amendment does as part of my bill, LB 1257, the original 1257 contains similarity to some of these clean-up bills. This amendment is a portion of 1257. It contains important funding concerns which are vital to the mentally ill population in Nebraska. If state psychiatric facilities are downsized due to patients being returned to the community-based centers, all local, state, and federal funds used for institutional care shall be reinvested in community-based centers. And I'll just repeat that. If the regional centers are downsized, the funding shall be invested in the community mental health systems. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I think it's a momentous occasion that Senator Maurstad and I have cosponsored an amendment so I think we all ought to support it. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska, on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Maurstad, question, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Maurstad, in striking the word "local," does that mean that it takes not only the funding but all of the involvement of the local boards and et cetera that are involved in the process?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No.

SENATOR VRTISKA: It doesn't?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I don't believe so.