

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1997 LB 798

title.) The bill was introduced on January 22 of this year, referred to the Health Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Crosby, to open on your bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. LB 798 is a bill that was brought to me by a constituent having to do with establishing a heart program at St. Elizabeth Hospital here in Lincoln. The bill is very short, itself. There are some amendments that are going to come that will change the thrust of the bill, to a certain extent, but the original bill, actually, all it said is this; that in cities of primary class, that they may make an exception to having to apply for a certificate of need to establish a heart program, and that's all that this bill, in particular that's all the bill does. All of us know that the health care market is changing every day. The insurance coverages, managed care, what hospitals may offer and may not offer, and what doctors...what doctors go to which hospital, as I say, every...every day that picture changes, and here in Lincoln, we have the same situation as we do across the state. In what we think of as the good old days in Lincoln, the hospitals in the sixties, the three hospitals went together and raised a considerable amount of money to establish and build the buildings that they needed at each...in each entity, St. Elizabeth, and Bryan Memorial, and Lincoln General. Over the years, up until the last several years, there was a distinct offering of services from each one of those three hospitals. Bryan Memorial was the heart surgery and orthopedic. St. Elizabeth was the burns and the neonatal unit and general surgery and other, and so on. Lincoln General had a big oncology department and the trauma unit. If you were in an accident, 99 percent of the time you were taken to Lincoln General because they have a...and they still do, a wonderful trauma unit. I've had personal experience with that unit, and they are simply tremendous. I have a daughter-in-law who works at Lincoln General. Bryan Memorial is in my district. I have had personal experiences with them. They're a tremendous hospital. St. Elizabeth is another hospital that I have had personal experiences with, wonderful hospital. All three of