

February 5, 1979

LB 9

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Legislature will be at ease for just a moment while we check the rules. Senator Koch, do you have a motion to suspend the rules?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 9 was referred to Select File. There are no E & R amendments. Senator Koch has a motion to indefinitely postpone LB 9. Pursuant to the rules, Mr. President, that should properly lay over one day.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would move that we suspend the rules and deal with this issue this morning in the remaining time we have left to take up the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to suspend the rules so that the indefinite postponement motion on LB 9 can be taken up. All those in favor of suspending the rules vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 3 nays on the motion to suspend the rules and consider the indefinitely postpone motion, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The Chair now recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this issue has been before us, many of us, before a year ago and it is here again. A year ago this body saw fit in its wisdom to disallow the request of the optometrists. I want to make it very clear that I am not opposed to optometrists and their practice because I believe in the care that they provide to the general public but I have a great concern as an individual Senator by allowing what I think to be a wholesale use of drugs in broad categories that few of us understand in terms of the implications that this might provide to those people who would be seeking the care of an optometrist, and then in turn may be seeking the care of someone else in terms of the intensive care system. I realize that not all parts of this state have an ophthalmologist but certainly if that person has a disease of the eye, the optometrist can provide them with that information, they then proceed to an ophthalmologist for the purpose of treatment. When you look at this bill, and we looked at it very hastily a week ago. In fact, I was promised by the introducer that once we got by the amendments that we would speak to the body of the bill totally. That provision was