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impossible for the manor to meet the licensing standards of the State Health Department and the OEA Senior Citizens intended to build a new health care facility several years ago but had to delay the project when financing problems developed. The OEA Foundation has already set aside funds for the new facility which would then be licensed as a nursing home. Work on the new facility should commence whenever financing has been arranged, sometimes in the near future. Actually there are only two options open to the OEA Manor, close the infirmary and transfer the approximately four residents that are living there now to area nursing homes or have the section revised, statutes of Nebraska amended, so as to classify OEA Senior Citizens as a charitable organization. If the infirmary were closed many of the patients would be forced to rely on tax dollars to pay off their care in a nursing home. They presently are not relying on public funds. The second option is much more desirable because a charitable organization is authorized to maintain facilities for the care of senior citizens without being subject to nursing home licensing requirements and I want to remind you that there are only four now in the infirmary. Several fraternal organizations already operate such facilities in Nebraska such as the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth and this is about the entire explanation of the bill but I do know there are some amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak. Senator Dworak, do you want to speak to the bill itself?

SENATOR DWORAK: Are we on the bill?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes. Then we will take up the amendments as soon as this discussion is over with.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you. I would like to ask Senator Labeledz a question. How many other nursing homes would this affect?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just the OEA Manor.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Labeledz, by passage of this legislation what types of restrictions or rules and regulations would be waived and what would be the intent of these restrictions and rules and regulations?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well only the Department of Health and the Fire Marshall's... The Fire Marshall I should say still has the authority regardless whether it is a nursing home or a nonprofit charitable institution to go in there and inspect.