

March 30, 1979

LB 260

Public Health and Welfare Committee, and signed by the members thereof. (Read title to LB 260.) The bill was first read on January 15. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee. I have pending, Mr. President, Committee amendments by Senator Cullan's Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan on the Committee amendments to 260.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, first I'll explain the Committee amendments and then I, myself, have some amendments to the Committee amendments. I believe the Clerk has those. Briefly, I'll explain the Committee amendments initially. The bill in its original form would have done a good number of things. It would have changed the structure of delivering alcohol services in the State of Nebraska from a regional structure with six regions across the State of Nebraska to a state system of delivering these alcohol services. The intent behind that change was to reduce the administrative costs with respect to the delivery of these services. The Appropriations Committee, since that point in time, the Appropriations Committee has made some changes placing the Regional Directors on the state payroll so that they are more under the direction of the Division on Alcoholism, and I think that that has solved some of the problems which resulted in the original drafting of that bill. So the first thing the Committee amendments does is strike all of that language that transfers the delivery system from a regional system to a state system. So if you adopt the Committee amendments, we will retain that regional system. The second thing the Committee does is it changes...the Committee amendments do, they change the operative date from 1980 to 1979. That was a mistake so far as the bill drafting was concerned. The Committee amendments also change the matching funds from 75... currently they are 75 percent state funds, 10 percent county funds, and 15 percent from third party, either in fees or in contributions, local gifts, that type of thing. The fourth thing accomplished in the Committee amendments... we changed the tax structure from what was in the original bill. Currently in the State of Nebraska, there was an 11 cent tax per gallon on beer, there is an 85 cent per gallon tax on wines, and there is \$2.25 tax per gallon on other alcohol. The bill increases, in its original form, increased the tax from 11 cents to 12 cents on beer, from 85 cents to 95 cents on wine, and from \$2.25 on alcohol to \$2.50 on alcohol. The Committee amendments increased