

April 18, 1979

LB 172

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 172 was introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee and signed by the members thereof. Title read. The bill was read on January 10th of this year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Senator Cullan's Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to take some time, and hopefully some of the Senators, some other Senators, may yield me some time, to explain the committee amendments to LB 172 and the committee amendments are quite extensive. The purpose of LB 172 is to impose a system of facility and program review in the health care industry in the State of Nebraska. It is hoped that the imposition of certificate and need in the State of Nebraska will help us reduce health care costs by eliminating or preventing unnecessary facility or program duplication. It is my opinion, and I think the opinion of the majority of the members of the committee, that LB 172 came to us in very poor shape and required extensive committee amendments to make the bill technically sound as well as some philosophical amendments to change certain aspects of the bill. But the bulk of the amendments that are pending as the committee amendments are somewhat technical in nature to ensure that the operation of the certificate of need program once it is adopted will run in a smooth fashion. I think there has been a great deal of public confusion with respect to the committee amendments, some individuals stating that the bill was gutted by the Public Health and Welfare Committee. I believe that that is not correct. There were a tremendous number of amendments adopted and most were technical. The process was followed, there was in excess of four and a half hours of executive session of the Public Health Committee where we considered in excess of a hundred amendments that were proposed to us, some numerous amendments proposed by individual committee members and numerous amendments submitted to us at the public hearing. I believe it would be most beneficial now to review the committee amendments and I have distributed for you a four page summary of the committee amendments on LB 172, or three pages I guess it is, and I have broken them down into forty-five separate issues which are here and can be discussed and I will refer to these as I begin to explain the committee amendments. Some of the committee amendments I will not explain. I will be happy to respond to questions from you if you have them but some I think are significant and should be explained. The second one on the sheet changes the definition of affected person. It strikes the language "but not limited to" in the

3533