

May 4, 1979

LB 172

finally, we are going to be able to take a look at this particular certificate of need bill again next year to see how it has operated in the preceding twelve months. If it turns out to be too strong in some areas or not strong enough in other areas, we will have a chance to fine tune it at that time. I would encourage the adoption of these amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I, too, would rise to support the consensus amendments and I would like to preface my remarks by expressing my appreciation to the efforts of a good number of legislators who worked very diligently to resolve some very major differences that were, differences in opinion that were evidenced about ten days ago or two weeks ago on the floor of the Legislature. Senator Newell, Simon, Wesely, Fowler, Johnson, Schmit, Hoagland and Carsten all were very involved in working, and other Senators as well worked very diligently to reach some middle ground. I think you should support the consensus amendments to LB 172 because they are reasonable and workable and yet we will still have one of the strongest certificate of need bills in the country. Under our certificate of need bill, the following items would trigger a certificate of need review: That would include construction, development or other establishment of new health care facilities; any capital expenditure in excess of \$100,000, which is one of the lower thresholds in certificate of need bills across the country, that includes acquisitions by lease or donation; three, a substantial bed change of ten beds or ten percent over a two year period which increases the number of beds, changes the use of beds or relocates beds from one facility to another; for any new institutional health service irrespective of the cost, and there is no threshold there; five, health services which were not offered on a regular basis within the last twelve months; six, predevelopment activities in excess of \$100,000, as well as; seven, transfer of facilities; eight, purchase of certain items of equipment in doctors' offices. In addition, I would point out that we maintain 1122 reviews and we are one of the few states that maintains these reviews. The State of Nebraska meets and exceeds federal regulations in the bill and we exceed the federal regulations in a good number of areas in this particular bill.