

April 16, 1981

LB 95

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 95 was introduced by Senator Cullan. (Title read.) The bill was originally read on January 12 of this year, referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan for purposes of discussing committee amendments.

CLERK: Senator, they are on page 1062 of the Journal.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments to LB 94 do a couple of things. The first thing that the committee amendments do is strike the first fourteen sections of LB 95. We are distributing to you now a list of the changes in the Mental Health Commitment Act that are proposed in LB 95. The first fourteen sections had to do with changing the jurisdictions for not guilty by reason of insanity, individuals who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity in the court system. We have stricken from the bill all of those sections dealing with the not guilty by reason of insanity plea and those changes which we do support which are very similar to the provisions of LB 95 are being handled in the LB 213 sponsored by Senators Pirsch, Hoagland and Hefner. The other changes that are contained in the committee amendments to LB 95 are more technical in nature. It provides that the committing mental health board of the judicial district will be notified upon release of a committed person. The provisions dealing with jailers in the Mental Health Commitment Act are clarified. It is provided that the mental health board must hold a hearing following the release of persons under the mentally disordered sex offender act. Appointments to the mental health boards are modified. The state, rather than the counties, will pay for medication under the act. Under the first draft of LB 95, indigents, mentally ill individuals who are indigents, will have medications paid for. In the first draft the counties paid for those medications. In this draft the state picks up the bill for those medications. The standard for hearings for those who have been released under the mentally disordered sex offender act is clarified as well as the time for supervised release. Those basically are the committee amendments. The major substantive committee amendment, I suppose, is the one that deals with having the state rather than the counties pay for medications for those individuals who are indigents and need those medications. With that I would urge you to adopt the committee amendments to LB 95.