

May 1, 1981

LB 487

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are you ready for the next bill, 487?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 487 introduced by Senators Wesely and Vard Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 20 of this year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, Mr. Cullan...Mr. President, you know Wesely has been doing my job for so long, I kind of forgot what to say when I get up here. The committee amendments do three things. They eliminate the inspection and licensure of hotels, motels, tourists camps and apartment houses by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture brought this to the committee and said that these functions were no longer necessary so they saw no reason for them to continue to inspect these facilities and so they asked that that unnecessary function of government be eliminated. Secondly, they continue the inspection of restaurants by the Department of Agriculture. Third, it creates a new category for licensure as a group home on a residential care facility. This bill, Senator Wesely was the individual who drafted the committee amendments to this bill. He has done all the work on it, so if you have any questions, I would ask you to defer them to Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish...okay, the motion, first of all, is the adoption of the committee amendments as explained by Senator Cullan. All in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The amendments are adopted. Now do you wish to advance the bill? Senator Wesely, do you wish to explain the bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. This bill is the result of an interim study in effect of the Department of Welfare and Public Institutions which formed a task force to look at a number of questions of the chronically mentally ill and they found one of the big problems was the fact that we had a licensure law for small group homes that had many gaps in it. Particularly the problem was brought to light last summer when we had a number of cases of concern in Lincoln with the Gant homes. A handout has been distributed which shows just a couple of the articles dealing