

January 14, 1982

LB 212

SENATOR CLARK: LB 212.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 212 introduced by Senator Vard Johnson. (Read title). The bill was read on January 15 last year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President, and there are committee amendments pending by the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan on the committee amendments for LB 212.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the committee amended the bill to ensure that the confidential identity of persons with cancer would be maintained. It changes the enforcement and related duties of the program from the Board of Health to the Department of Health. The bill requires hospitals to participate. The requirement that health care providers must participate is changed from mandatory to permissive. A definition of cancer registry is also provided. The definition of cancer is modified. An annual report to the Legislature is required and no patient or member of a patient's family can be contacted about the cancer unless permission is received from the patient's private physician. So we have done everything we can basically in the amendments to protect the privacy of the individual patients whose problems are registered with the cancer registry so that they are not later contacted by researchers when they don't want to be contacted by researchers, and that way we have attempted to ensure the patient confidentiality and the right of privacy of a patient and a patient's family is maintained.

SENATOR CLARK: The question is the committee amendments, the adoption of the committee amendments. Any discussion? If not, all those in favor of the committee amendments vote aye, opposed vote nay. Voting on the committee amendments to LB 212. Have you all voted on the committee amendments? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now on the bill, Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, LB 212 would establish in the State of Nebraska a centralized cancer reporting and registry system. Such systems are fairly commonplace. I passed out...in the first place,