

January 26, 1982

LB 359, 270

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and LB 359 is advanced to E & R Initial. The next bill on General File is LB 349, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a request from Senator Haberman as an introducer to pass over LB 349.

PRESIDENT: No objection, so ordered. We will pass over the...Senator Haberman has passed over then. Then we are ready for LB 270.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 270 offered by Senator Burrows. (Read title). The bill was first read on January 16 of last year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are committee amendments pending by the Public Health Committee.

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

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the Public Health and Welfare Committee adopted a couple of amendments to LB 270 prior to advancing it. The amendments provide that a license is required for a family daycare provider who cares for six or more children. It has clarified that foster homes are not covered by this definition. The amendment also allows a county board of commissioners to enact a requirement for licensure when fewer than six children are being cared for in a daycare home. The rationale for these amendments was to give some local autonomy in the area of regulation of basically babysitting services, and that is what I think we are talking about, to counties. It was felt particularly by some citizens in Lancaster County that six...not regulating babysitting services or daycare services for fewer than...or for more than four children would be disadvantageous and almost all the testimony from rural areas indicated that, in fact, there was no reason for regulating babysitters at all. And while I personally agreed with the latter philosophy, I think the committee decided to give the counties the option to set up and run their own programs if they believe that they have a problem with regulation of daycare services provided in the home or babysitting services. I guess that pretty much summarizes the amendments.