

March 3, 1982

LB 609, 522

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Once more, have you all voted, please? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. We will go back to 522.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 522 (read title). The bill was introduced last year on January 20, 1981, referred to the Public Health Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. On April 28th of last year the committee amendments were adopted by the Legislature. On that date the bill failed to advance. I now have pending, Mr. President, an amendment from Senator Johnson. I believe copies have been distributed. Senator, as a procedural matter, do you wish to withdraw the amendment we had printed in the Journal, is that correct? Okay.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson, on the new amendment.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, the amendment that you have on your desk right now is relatively straightforward. This legislative bill has been held over from last year, and as a result of its being held over from last year, it is necessary to change a few of the operative dates in the legislation. That is one of the things that the amendment does. What the amendment would do is this, it would make certain that when the State of Nebraska assumes all responsibilities for the administration of public assistance in the state, the first thing the amendment would do is to make certain that it assumes the responsibility for the archaic and ancient program of general assistance which since 1866 has been a county poor relief program. The second thing this amendment would do is it would eliminate from the general assistance statutes all references to counties of legal settlement, those references no longer being necessary once there is a state administered system in place. The third thing this amendment would do is it would effectuate a reduction in county...the county share of the medicaid payment commencing July 1, 1983. The original committee amendments started that reduction July 1, 1982. However, the takeover itself is not to be effected until July 1, 1983 and thus the reduction in the county share of medicaid begins with the takeover on July 1, 1983. The fourth thing that the committee...that this amendment does is it eliminates a provision which says that whenever the State Department of Public Welfare decides that it wishes to actually close out a facility in a county, it first has to get permission from the county