

April 5, 1982

LB 378A

Legislature, A bills are supposed to cover the cost of a piece of legislation and what Senator Warner and I are proposing is that this A bill do exactly that, cover the cost. The fiscal note as prepared by the fiscal office indicates that forty some thousand dollar cost to this legislation. The A bill as presently constituted only covers about \$20,000 of that cost. We are simply saying that let's be honest and as Senator Warner says, the new word for the session, let's be up front and if it is going to cost \$40,000 then let's put \$40,000 in the A bill. That would be an increase of about \$22,000. As Senator Cullan started to talk about the whole thing that he has mentioned before and others have mentioned before about how overstaffed the Health Department is in this area, well the information they provide is inaccurate and we have done some checking on that which they have brought up on the floor before and the figures of twenty staff people over Nebraska versus nine in Missouri is not accurate because they are comparing apples and oranges. In the Nebraska situation they are taking clerical staff and adding it to it. They are not including that with the Missouri figures and the information we have is that Nebraska is not overstaffed and that if you include the fact that part of the division that we now have includes a section of hospital and medical facilities and a section on health planning and just deal with the section dealing with certificate of need, there are only 4.5 professional FTE and two clerical staff that are dealing with the question of certificate of need. The other staff that Senator Cullan talks about are dealing with health planning. The other states he mentions, it is not clear whether or not those are included or whether they aren't and it seems quite clear in my mind that we are not overstaffed and that Senator Cullan has been provided inaccurate information, is trying to use that against the Health Department. Senator Newell I think was very accurate in pointing out what this bill is really talking about. The process that Senator Cullan has incorporated into the bill which is now on Final Reading is a more cumbersome process and a more costly process. It requires several hearings that are not now required which means extra cost and it means extra staffing to take care of those hearings and that is why you are seeing about a \$40,000 fiscal impact on this legislation. To deny that fiscal impact I think is wrong because it is there and it has been documented. There is not any doubt in my mind that the fact that the HSAs and their staffing which has been eliminated under the Governor's proposal supported by Senator Cullan has meant a shift to the Health Department in terms of the functions that they have had to pick up that the HSAs used to carry. So there is that function that has been shifted as well as the increased costs

10042