

February 4, 1985

LB 129, 249

aides and requires that they be registered, trained and supervised by board approved audiologists or speech pathologists. Communication aides will be authorized to carry out the more routine aspects of rehabilitation. Drill work is often necessary in rehabilitation, especially for stroke patients. It is simply not necessary that an audiologist or speech pathologist with a master's degree do this repetitive work. Use of communication aides will also save money for patients, since the aides will do routine work at a lower cost. Audiologists and speech pathologists will be able to see more patients, thus improving access to health care in the western part of the state. It is not the intent of this bill to in any way regulate the use of communication aides in the public schools. The bill makes several technical changes. The title, Speech Pathologist, is changed to Speech Language Pathologist which is the current usage in the profession and in colleges and in universities. Section 34 provides an operative date of July 1st, 1985, and Section 36 contains an emergency clause which is needed since the necessary operative date falls prior to 30 days after adjournment. I urge your advancement of LB 129.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Marsh. Seeing no further lights, Senator Marsh, we will now vote on LB 129. Those voting in favor vote aye, opposed nay.

CLERK: Senator Labeledz voting yes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Have you all voted? Mr. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Madam President. (See page 450 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, the next bill, LB 249, offered by the Public Health and Welfare Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 17, referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Public Health and Welfare Committee amendments pending.