

CLERK: Mr. President, 252 was a bill offered by the Public Health and Welfare Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was initially read on January 17, 1985, referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, will you take the amendments first?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members, the amendment, all it does is strike "public morals" from the bill. The reason we are striking...one of the things...all right, you are wondering why we don't want "public morals" in the bill. What we have is a bill that deals with a drug abuser who endangers themselves or others and under the Mental Health Commitment Act would then be able to be committed and provide some assistance to these people and take care of their problem. One of the things that the bill says is not only do they have to be dangerous to themselves and to others, they have to endanger the public morals. The problem we had, and when the bill came up they really couldn't answer the question as to how do you endanger the public morals? I mean, what are they doing? And there is just no way for us to define that, so we are asking that that be struck and what is maintained is that if they are endangering themselves or others, it just says in the other sections dealing with the mentally ill and the alcoholic person they could be committed. So that is all we are doing is striking that one small phrase.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the...Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Wesely a question because I have just...this is my first exposure to the bill. Senator Wesely, is this an involuntary commitment procedure?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.