

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. The committee amendments are rejected. Before we continue may I please introduce some guests of Senator Vickers who are under the south balcony. They are Mrs. Lyle Rasmussen and her two children, from Ord, Nebraska. Would you please welcome them to the Legislature. Thank you. Senator Labedz, would you like to explain the bill to us, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 487 was sponsored by myself and John DeCamp on behalf of the Department of Public Institutions. Since 1984 the department began receiving denials for payment from insurance companies for care provided to insured patients at the facilities. Such denials are increasing, enough to warrant legislation to ensure that public operated facilities are not discriminated against in regard to the payment for cost of patient care. This legislation would prohibit the health insurance policies, or the companies from denying payment for the treatment of mental nervous disorders by state institutions. It would further force...the health insurance would be considered by the department in assessing the insurance coverage for the cost of the patient care. The trend over the past four years indicates that an increasing number of insurance claims are being denied for service provided in the state regional centers. LB 487 will eliminate the reasons for the insurance denials. It will allow the Department of Public Institutions to continue to receive revenue from insurance companies covered by health services. The increase in cash revenue, in 1983-84, would have been \$122,072. If the first six months of '84-85 is representative, the increase for the current year would be \$105,540. You can see, by these figures, that there would be an increase in revenue and denials by the insurance company would be eliminated. I urge the adoption of LB 487.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the bill? The question is the advancement of LB 487. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 487.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 487 is advanced. LB 157.