

to patients in publicly operated mental institutions simply because the state or county is going to be picking up the tab. So the Department of Institutions, Public Institutions, came to us, asked us to introduce a bill which was designed to apply only to the three state mental hospitals, the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute and the Douglas County Hospital, which are all publicly funded. The wording in the bill, if you will read it, "or other facility" was put in the bill specifically to include the Douglas County Hospital and the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute. However, on Select File we added new language in an amendment that was meant to specifically cover these other institutions more clearly thereby making the wording that my amendment would remove those three words unnecessary and confusing. So what this is is then a technical amendment that just eliminates a possibility of later confusion if some other institution came into existence or whatever. So, as I say, my amendment merely removes three words that the previous amendment made obsolete and which perhaps may broaden the application of the bill beyond its original intent. I'd ask adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you Madam Speaker. As co-sponsor of LB 487 I agree with the amendment. And the Department of Institutions and also the insurance company are totally in agreement that the amendment has to be done. I urge for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Senator Labeledz, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Prior to this amendment did it cover any mental disorders for everybody in any hospital or anything?

SENATOR LABEDZ: The way the bill was written, prior to the first amendment, there was some confusion as to whether it would include the county hospital and hospitals or facilities of any county. So we amended that and failed to take out "other facility" out of the bill, so we are doing it now.