

April 2, 1985

LB 60, 359, 382, 459

CLERK: Correct.

PRESIDENT: Motion prevails, yes, prevails. The motion prevails. The bill is indefinitely postponed. The call of the house is raised. Do you have any matters for the record at this time?

CLERK: Yes, sir, I do. Mr. President, I have an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Vickers regarding LB 459, and Senator Hartnett would like to print amendments to LB 359. (See pages 1342-44 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: We proceed then to the next General File bill, LB 382.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 382 was a bill that was introduced by Senators Wesely, Smith and Hoagland. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 18. It was referred to the Health and Welfare Committee for hearing, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: May the Chair first announce that Senator Conway has a guest under the south balcony, I believe. Some while ago he asked me to announce this. LaTisha Engel from South Sioux City is here. We are glad to welcome you to the Legislature today and have you watch us in action. Welcome. All right. Senator Wesely, do you have amendments to explain?

SENATOR WESELY: I'd rather talk about the bill first, and then go to the amendments, Mr. President. If that would be okay? There are no committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Yes. It would be helpful to explain the bill, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 382 is a bill that is an issue brought to this body for many different years now. I think John Humpal, who has been here a long time, said it's been 14 years that the issue has been before the body. What the issue is is how do we get information to the public about hospital charges so that they might be better informed as to the cost of going to the hospitals, being able to compare the cost between hospitals and be a well-informed consumer of health care. We have had great concern about that issue over the years, and that concern has mounted as hospital costs have gone up. The