

consumer then, in the short term, finds out what the hospitals charges are on the most frequent operations performed there, and they find out what it would cost for the different types of surgeries they may be contemplating so that they can make comparisons. In the long term we start moving toward the same billing form, so that eventually we can have a statewide program to start identifying costs, and comparing costs and charges between hospitals. That is the amendment before you. I've passed out a summary of the bill, an article about efforts to provide uniform billing in other states. We are not the first state to try this. As a matter of fact, Iowa, Minnesota and several other states have already gone to this. If we would have done it 14 years ago when it was first introduced, we would have been ahead of our time. Now Senator Schmit has found us some issues he's been involved in where maybe we're a little bit behind the time. But, nevertheless, if we eventually get to that point I'm going to be a happy person. At this point I'd like to ask consideration for the amendment to the bill.

PRESIDENT: Very well. Senator Wesely has explained something about the bill, and has also explained the amendments. Is there discussion on the committee amendments to LB 382? If not, the motion is to adopt the amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The motion is to adopt the committee amendments on LB 382. Excuse me, they are not committee amendments. They are Wesely amendments on LB 382. Please record your vote so we may move on with our day's activities. May we have your attention to the matter on the floor, senators, please. If you wish to vote on adopting the amendments to LB 382, please record your vote. The motion before us is the adoption of Senator Wesely's amendments to LB 382. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment to the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Wesely amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. (See Wesely amendment found on page 1345 of the Legislative Journal.)