

Human Services, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Wesely, with the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, LB 921 as originally introduced changes a number of things in ICF designations for nursing homes. We found so many difficulties in identifying what we needed to do and what the problems were. It would just drop all of the bill except for one provision which is absolutely necessary and that deals with charge nurses, the supervising nurse being able to continue to provide health care and have that count toward the minimum standard requirements that the health department has for nursing homes. There is some cloud because of an AG Opinion over that situation and this would help clarify that the supervising nurse could provide nursing care and that nursing care provided would then count toward the requirements for nursing care that the health department has developed as standards for nursing homes. So this guts the whole bill and just keeps this one part of it and I would ask your support for the committee amendments.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Wesely, could you tell me again, you say you have gutted the bill and kept what part of it?

SENATOR WESELY: The whole bill is out except for the part dealing with the charge nurse, the supervising nurse and ability to perform nursing services.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Provides who the authority to perform nursing services?

SENATOR WESELY: Let me start again. Right now the problem is that the Attorney General's Office found that when you have a supervising nurse, an RN, has to be an RN...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Right.

SENATOR WESELY: ...they somehow, I don't know how exactly, they decided that that...if they provided nursing care in a small nursing home in particular, that that didn't really count toward the different standards the health department