

does, and that is what we have right now. The problem that we had is that the Department of Social Services came to us and said Medicaid regulations are all dealing with mental retarded and not developmental disability, and reimbursement might be jeopardized. So it is the same concept, only the terminology, under this amendment, is reverted back to mentally retarded because of these federal statute changes. So all it is is inserting mentally retarded for where we've got developmental disability. It is only because of these federal guidelines requiring this that we are even suggesting it. But that is what we need to do. So that is the amendment. I'd ask support for it.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, looking at the committee statement, Senator Wesely, it says the bill creates a separate category for licensure and regulation of intermediate care facilities which serve the developmentally disabled. Now my concern is that over at the Department of Health they have a crystal ball. In 1983, you'll remember, we passed, and the Governor signed, three separate nursing home bills. This is now March of 1986, and the Department of Health has not yet written or got to the nursing homes the new rules and regulations pertaining to those three bills. One of the excuses Dr. Gregg Wright, the Director of the Health Department, used was that in 1985 there was a bill introduced creating another level of intermediate care. And how the Department of Health knew, in 1983, that there would be a bill in 1985 I don't know, except I believe they have a crystal ball over there that tells them two years after a bill passes there is going to be another one passed. But at any rate, when I questioned them why, after two years, they couldn't write the rules and regulations for bills that were two years old, that was their excuse, because a bill had been introduced that created another level of care. Now this LB 924 says exactly the same thing, that it is going to create a separate category for licensure and regulation. I'm scared to death that they are going to delay again writing rules and regulations for bills that have been passed three years ago. If every year there is a new bill introduced concerning nursing homes, the Health Department will never, ever get the rules and regulations to the nursing homes. Consequently, they don't know how to operate under the new laws. They have to go back and repeatedly ask questions of the Health Department, or the