

SENATOR WESELY: I would move the adoption of the committee amendments. They have been amended by Senator Withem, but they get more at the problem Senator Withem was concerned about than the bill did previously and I'd urge your support for their adoption.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One moment while we fix the machinery. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Our machine is back in business, so if I could have your attention, please vote on the adoption of the committee amendments, if you wish to do so. Voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Committee amendments are adopted. Now we're back to the bill. Senator Withem or Senator Wesely, did you either wish to talk about the bill?

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members, people have been asking me some questions exactly what the bill does at this point. Let me try to clarify that for the record. At this point, what the bill does is deal with one very small portion of this entire Medicaid question and that, is what happens to an individual who goes into a nursing home as a private pay individual, spends down the money that they have which, according to statistics, we have in Nebraska, it may be a year, may be a year and a half. In other places in the country it is as short as 13-week average that they are in a nursing home and they spend down their private money. At that point, this bill says that nursing home cannot use that as an excuse to kick the individual out into the street or to some other home or uproot them into another community or whatever. What it would say would be that that nursing home must keep that individual in that nursing home, very simple sort of concept. That's what the bill does at this point.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, please, and then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I hope that I'm not ever labeled a person around here, you take away my rights or my freedom or so on and so forth, but I