

of those people. They just can't understand why those are no longer available in the area.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the resolution. (Read Wesely amendment as found on page 2449 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, at first I was going to oppose the resolution in total. But, in fact, Senator Lamb has two items, the second two items, which are reasonable and I am willing to suggest that we pursue those. But let me tell you the background on the issue because it hasn't been, I think, completely explained and perhaps accurately explained. These records, at the county level, we have spent a lot of time on this in the Health Committee. Let me tell you, we've had hearings, we've had meetings, we've had mailings, we've worked on this. And what we found was the following, number one, since 1905, approximately, we have had duplicate records, two sets of records, one at the county level, one at the state level. What would happen is in terms of birth and death, information would be sent to the county that would then put them in a little ledger and then send them on to the state and the state actually kept the certificates, kept the records, the official records. The county only marked it in this ledger book so that they can then go back and get reimbursed by the state for having sent it on to them. Well, Senator Miller had a piece of legislation, LB 42, that we passed last year that said this is nuts. Why do we take the information, send it to the county, they put it in a little book and then send it on to the state? It is an extra step, a bureaucratic waste of time. So his bill eliminated that and now this information on birth and death certificates is sent directly to the state, bypassing the county; changed that whole system, saved time, saved money. Well, that change took effect and as a result there was no longer any need for the county to play any role in this. And those ledger book out there were no longer a part of the state records in the State Health Department, it was theirs, but the county was no longer a functionary of the state, and thus there was concern about those ledgers which have never been open to the public, have always been confidential information, yet some people at the county level have been allowing the public to use them, against the