

April 9, 1992

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services. You have got hospitals listed in the paper saying they are going to cap the amount of indigent care that they provide. Those are my constituents.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: Those are the people that don't have any place else to go, yet these not-for-profit operations, that were built on the basis of charity and received their not-for-profit status based on those provisions, show them the door when they walk through. They do not provide the services because they can't afford it. They look at their bottom line like every other for-profit operation and they say, no, hit the door. They have gone so far as to put them in cabs and send them to other facilities, who they knew would take them, and now those have said, no, we are not going to do that. This problem is a huge one for this state. It is going to be back. There is an interim study that we will address this issue and we will address it from front to back, from A to Z, and the health care industry needs to be very much aware that this is going to be dealt with by the Legislature in the next biennium. Thank you very much for your attention. I apologize for the time that it has took.

SPEAKER BAACK: The motion is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have an amendment by Senator Ashford. (See FA396 on page 2139 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment is a measure that basically puts the delivery of methadone into a posture that is consistent with federal guidelines, and it had a public hearing, went through the Department of Health has no objection to this, and it's, basically, all it does is it makes certain that a nurse can dispense methadone that is consistent with the federal law, federal guidelines in the 21 states where this is done, and as I said, it had a public hearing. And I believe...I know the Department of Health, the Director, is in favor of this measure and I would just move the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. People wishing to speak to this, Senator Wehrbein, did you wish to speak to this amendment? Senator Dierks, to this amendment? Senator Wesely.

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