

March 27, 1981

LB 379

changes the term of the anesthesiologist on the board from one year to two years. Those are the committee amendments and after they are adopted I will explain the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 379. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed nay, the committee amendments. Have you all voted on the committee amendments to LB 379? Record the vote.

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

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Cullan, on the bill itself.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 379 is the output, the work product of a task force on the expanded role of nursing which I appointed in July of this year. The task force consisted of a representative of the Department of Health, Bureau of Examining Boards. Rex Higley chaired the task force. It also had representatives of the nurses in the state, the other health practitioners in the state to work out the expanded role of nursing legislation which you see before you. The first twenty-five sections of LB 379 are general, consist of general language which sets out the guidelines and the format, if you will, for the expanded role of nursing. Sections 25 through 36 specifically set up the first of what will probably be a series of expanded roles for nursing in the State of Nebraska. The first and the only major change that we are actually making this year in the nursing practice in the State of Nebraska has to deal with the nurse anesthetist. The nurse anesthetists are those people who work with anesthesiologists in that area of practice. The bill provides that these individuals can work in consultation and with the consent of physicians to carry out their very important function. This bill is one that is absolutely necessary in my opinion and in the opinion of the representatives of the Department of Health because the current Nurse Practices Act does not provide for the independent practice that, or, excuse me, not independent practice, but the various functions that nurse anesthetists are currently carrying out. And so they can, in fact, in my opinion they are practicing outside of the current statutory authority which they have. That could result in some litigation and those people could be in a good deal of trouble if we do not allow this bill to pass. In the long range future the task force, ten member task force, which I have appointed will continue to work on the various nursing specialties and hopefully we will come in with legislation in the next several years to set up further expanded