

March 3, 1988

LB 229A, 320

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Wesely's and Johnson's amendment to the bill.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Anything further on this?

CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Wesely, on the advancement of the bill. Okay, any further discussion? If not, the question is...all those in favor of advancing the bill say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. LB 320, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, 320 is on Select File. I have no E & R amendments. I do have an amendment to the bill by Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

CLERK: The amendment, Mr. President, is found on page 841, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Are you ready, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this amendment is an amendment to deal with some concerns that were expressed by some members of the Appropriations Committee about the original bill providing a change in match rates to the counties on mental health programs. Senator Nelson referenced this a few minutes ago. This is the bill you were thinking about, Arlene. What we are trying to do is recognize that in rural areas there are counties that are having a difficult time having the resources to meet the match formula for mental health. The match formula for mental health services is higher than for other services, such as drug and alcohol, for instance, or mental retardation. So we are trying to get some uniformity on that issue. However, there was some objection about the fact that the counties would essentially be exempted from additional support for mental health until we had gone up to 8 million more dollars in state money. So what we have done is we have maintained the status quo in terms of the match rate, but what we are doing is adding a lower match rate for these counties for any additional funding that may come