

May 1, 1991

LB 727, 830, 849
LR 75

Mr. President, new resolution, LR 75, introduced by Senator Beyer. (Read brief summary of resolution. See pages 1914-15 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Will has amendments to be printed to LB 849; and Senator Hall to LB 727. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See page 1915 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now go back to General File and LB 830.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 830 was a bill originally introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23, referred to the Health Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments by the Health and Human Services Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Let me back track a little bit on the bill. The committee amendments though are the subject at hand, but let me give you a little background, get to the committee amendments, then we go directly to some amendments that are being offered by a number of us to the committee amendments that deal with most of the concerns about the legislation. LB 830 is a very important piece of legislation that takes the State of Nebraska forward into the next phase of services to those individuals in our state with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Our state was, in 1967, the first state in the country to move toward the concept of community based services for our individuals with mental retardation. We led the way, we led the nation in moving in this new direction for services, and we have, I think, appropriately titled the report that initiated that into the light. The report that we issued from a study initiated by this Legislature last year, and reported and issued in January of this year, is titled, "Two Decades in the Light". So two decades after that initial report, in the late sixties, we have evaluated where we're at in terms of our services to people with mental retardation, and we have discovered a number of needs for change in the service system that we have. This legislation makes a number of those changes, and unfortunately because of a number of concerns we will stop short of making additional changes I would like to see to the system. But I will describe