

April 7, 1992

LB 1018, 1019
LR 387

every so often we have to adjust fees, and what this bill does is adjust the fee schedule. What we've done in the Health Department is set fee schedules and then allowed the professional board that licenses certain professions to set the fee to cover the cost of the licensure. And so I want to make it clear that just because a fee schedule is increased in some of these cases the actual fee setting is done by the boards involved and is mandated to cover the costs and not to do more than that. But, again, in order to fulfill the mandate of not having General Fund support this activity, these fees have to be increased. I want to note that we are going to study this issue under LR 387. The Health Committee has found a number of inequities in the current fee structure in the Health Department. The fact that we have it fully fee funded has led to some professions that are small in number having a very high fee, while those that may be large in number but may be more...generous in terms of money have a lower fee. Their ability to pay is greater, but their fee is lower. And so we do need to study the issue, but until we do that study we're not ready to make a change in the policy we have in place. We've all talked about concern about red ink and government. I want to note that this bill would eliminate red ink, at least in one aspect of government, that being the use of red ink in making changes in addition to vital statistic records. It's not exactly the red ink that we think of when we use that term, but it will stop that practice of using red ink in vital statistic records. It's sort of small changes like this that are included in this piece of legislation. We make some changes for the Modular Housing Advisory Board in some of their fee structures, and make additional technical changes, also allow health departments and that cancer registries in other states have access to the cancer registry. That's essentially, in very quick fashion, a summary of the multitude of amendments that are contained in the main bill. I think perhaps we could go to amendments at this point unless there are questions about the main bill. I guess we're on the committee amendments now. Let me...let me talk about the committee amendments then. The committee amendments deal with a couple of provisions of other pieces of legislation. LB 1018 is a bill that we introduced as a committee to deal with a problem the State Board of Health had dealing with rules and regulations. The various boards on the Bureau of Examining Boards established rules and regs to govern their activities, and in the past the State Board of Health had always approved and reviewed those activities. But an Attorney General Opinion somehow changed that provision and we would like