

April 6, 1994

LB 376, 1210, 1212

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the McKenzie, et al., amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The McKenzie amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Madam President, excuse me, Senator Hall has the next amendment. Senator, you want to withdraw I believe. Senator Hall would move to amend with AM4375. (Found on file in the Clerk's Office.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. The amendment that we are dealing with was passed out to you. It is cosponsored by Senator Wesely. It deals with the issue of two things, one, the Medicare, the HCFA Medicare definition of ambulatory surgical centers, and then the certificate of need process as it relates to ophthalmological services performed at an ambulatory surgical center. As you remember, we debated this issue earlier on a bill, LB 376, this session. It was introduced last year on behalf of the department. I introduced a competing bill, LB 1212, this year that was heard by the Health and Human Services Committee. For the most part, this represents a compromise, one that the Department of Health has signed off on, that I believe virtually all folks behind the glass have agreed to. It is a very narrow window of opportunity under the certificate of need for folks who frankly, I believe, don't have to have certificate of need to do what they want to do; they are that independent business folks who happen to be doctors, as well, who want to provide these types of services and at a very low cost, as well as do it as taxpayers of this state, and I believe it is good public policy. I believe that the broader policy as it relates to ASCs is one that will be addressed by this body over the next few years and I applaud Senator Wesely's efforts and all those who participated in drafting and crafting this amendment. This amendment will be the first of two. The second is a technical change to this amendment because of the time line that we are on. I don't have the opportunity to address that right now, but I would yield the balance of the opening to Senator Wesely, who cosponsored the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. Senator