

March 22, 1979

LB 94

this sunset bill is passed. I very much appreciate that being brought to my attention because I think it indicates that there is really no hurry. There is no hurry, as Senator Cullan would like us to believe, to try and get this bill through. We have got over a year. So if the concern, the legitimate concern of this Legislature is a chance for public comment and funeral director comment on Senator Chambers amendment, then I think we can send this bill back to the Public Health Committee. They can schedule a hearing this year, or if they don't want to schedule a hearing this year, they can schedule a hearing at the first of next year and they can bring a bill out and we can pass it with the emergency clause next year and nothing will have been disrupted. I think that that is the sort of force that the sunset law provides and I think that since termination does not really mean termination, that in fact there is a year extension, then there should be no problem at all in us adopting Senator Chambers amendment or working with this idea, taking the interim if we have to. So I would hope that the Legislature was sincere in its concern about public comment because I think we have plenty of opportunity here. There is no need to rush LB 94 across. The funeral board will stay in existence for another year whether we pass it or not. I would hope that you would not let the funeral directors try and stampede you into passing it this year claiming that their agency is going to terminate July 1 because, in fact, termination is not really termination. They have a year's reprieve. So I think we ought to adopt the Chambers amendments. I think then we want to send the bill back for a public hearing, let Senator Cullan schedule it at the time he thinks convenient. If he doesn't think there is time this year, then he can take it up the first of next year but there is no rush on this matter because it is a sunset bill because the sun will not completely set for another year and a half.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the adoption of the Chambers sections 24 through 39 on definitions. Senator Cullan, do you wish to be recognized on that motion?

SENATOR CULLAN: Just to say, Mr. President, that, Senator Fowler, I was not attempting to mislead anyone but I was unaware that when you terminated a board they had a year's grace and I thank you for bringing that clarification to the Legislature. I had previously thought once a board was terminated it was terminated. I did not know they had a year's grace. I thank you for raising that point, Senator Fowler.