

for the introduction of the bill was to allow a county hospital to use county hospital funds to recruit medical personnel. Again, the Attorney General issued an opinion which said that a county hospital could not use county hospital funds to recruit medical personnel. This creates some problem in small hospitals where they need to spend a few dollars perhaps to pay airline fare or something for a doctor to come to the town, fly in and take a look at the village, or the town and the medical facilities there in an effort to recruit that doctor. And it also relates to the great shortage of nurses in the State of Nebraska where the same desire...the county board may desire the same type of action. So one of the major purposes of the bill is to allow county funds to be used for these recruiting purposes. The committee rejected suggestions that the county hospital funds could be used for loans and other things, so it is limited to this very narrow function of recruiting medical personnel.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is a good bill. It does a lot for the rural area where we have problems getting medical personnel to the hospitals. We have modern hospitals but many of them are understaffed or there is no staff at all as far as doctors and I think if we are going to allow these hospitals to use these funds it is going to help recruit doctors and nurses to the county hospitals that are looking for doctors. I had a bill one time to allow mileage for medical students to travel outstate to view the town they want to practice in. I think this is just another measure to help recruit doctors and nurses for our doctor short areas. I support the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, a question of Senator Cullan, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan, will you respond?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, I will.

SENATOR LAMB: At the top of page 4 the language stricken is, "shall receive no compensation". Do hospital board members receive compensation at this point? Do you know?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator, I am not....I don't know whether they do or not. I will have to check.