

January 14, 1982

LB 448

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lamb would move to amend the bill and I believe copies of the amendment have been distributed.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, you have on your desks a copy of the proposed amendment. It was printed last year in the Journal on page 1981 and this amendment is proposed in order to allow a licensure in Nebraska physicians who attend a foreign medical school and have achieved all their prerequisites of graduation except for serving a year of social service. This amendment would set three requirements to be met before a foreign medical student could take the examination given by the Board of Examiners to become a licensed physician in Nebraska and those three are listed in the amendment. They are completion of all the formal requirements except internship or social service of a foreign medical school recognized by the World Health Organization. Number two, successful passage of the ECFMG, which is Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates exam, and number three, completion of an academic year of supervised clinical training in a hospital affiliated with a medical school approved by the American Medical Association. Now this amendment would certainly maintain the high standards set for licensure in Nebraska. The same scholastic achievement is required and the only difference is that an internship in a hospital accredited in the United States is substituted for the social service requirement presently required in a foreign country. This would assure that the doctor is competent by American standards through completion of the internship. There would be a better measure of the applicants' qualifications and provide greater educational benefits than a year of the social service in, for instance, Mexico. And with this amendment, Nebraska will still have higher licensing standards than some other states including Colorado. Colorado, for instance, would accept someone who meets just two of the three requirements listed in this amendment. There is another consideration, that these students or these doctors are needed in this state. I had a situation in my district last year in which one of these doctors wanted to practice in one of the small towns in the district but was prevented from it only because he had not completed the year of social service in a foreign country but he had completed the year of residency which this amendment calls for. Some opponents may charge that the licensing requirements of Fifth Pathway Program resolved the problem of students from foreign medical schools but this Pathway is not available. It is a special provision

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