

plan, I would be happy to provide you with one. Those are the most substantive changes that are made in LB 378 and my amendments to it. Many and most of these are required by federal regulations. My philosophy is to move towards a minimum certificate of need bill so far as projects that must undergo the certificate of need process and I will argue those points later. Thank you, Senator Wesely, and Mr. President, for allowing me to complete my brief synopsis of the major points of changes in the certificate of need process.

SENATOR CLARK: We now have Senator Marsh and then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I have some questions I would like to address to Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan, as I understand it, under Section 5 where you are moving from the \$150,000 threshold for capital construction which, as I understand it, also includes capital acquisition of, am I correct, of a CAT scanner under that category? That was my understanding, is that correct? I have a real concern that you are moving to the \$600,000 category because then the State of Nebraska has no control over what communities or how many hospitals are clustered together and one of our larger communities can acquire certain kinds of medical equipment which will undoubtedly add to the cost of hospitalization at that particular medical facility. We are concerned about controlling costs and yet the jump from \$150,000 to \$600,000 is tremendous. Perhaps it needs to be somewhere in between, but to say \$600,000 and on top of that add the proviso that the cost of living index per se will be added to that figure the next year. So we have a fifteen percent increase and then that jumps the following year and that can go up pretty fast with the rate of cost of living which we have had in the last four years would certainly increase that number. Is this a figure mandated or suggested that could be used if a state chose to use it?

SENATOR CULLAN: This is the figure...this is the highest figure that the federal government will allow. The federal government could allow the current \$100,000 or anything in between. As far as CAT scanners are concerned, Senator Marsh, a CAT scanner today would cost you about \$1.4 million. You couldn't buy a CAT scanner in the \$600,000 range unless it were a used one or a very, very small CAT scanner which most people would not want to purchase. So the typical CAT scanner will run you in the million to million four range today.

SENATOR MARSH: Then I have one other question, if you would