

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments as discussed by Senator Cullan. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Higgins, do you wish to explain your amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: I just explained my amendment and now I...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you want to explain the bill now?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well the bill is pretty much the amendment. It is just to allow these people to be able to continue to get medical aid and put aside money for their burial in the future and I might add that these people being frugal enough to look ahead to their future it will save the county and the state the expense of burying them if they are forced to spend that money in order to qualify. So, in effect, we would be penalizing them. One of the main reasons I brought this bill out was in my campaigning I ran into a woman who was in nursing home and her biggest fear was that if she didn't have enough money for burial her body would automatically be given to the University Hospital or Creighton University Hospital for medical students. So I really introduced it more to alleviate the fears of these elderly people and also keep them from losing what eligibility they have for Medicaid and I would urge the advancement of LB 314, Senators, to Select File or to E & R for initial. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I stand to support LB 314. I would like to thank Senator Higgins for bringing this to the legislative body. There are a number of our senior citizens who are on the very borderline of whether they are eligible for state services, supplemental security payments and yet care about what kind of funeral arrangements could be made for them. This will allow the dignity of the senior citizen to prevail for those who have made an effort with perhaps a very low cost insurance through the years that may be paid in full for their savings account that they feel this is where they would like to have it go and I strongly support the advancement of LB 314.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.