

March 1, 1982

LB 378

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is from Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely would move to indefinitely postpone the bill. That will lay it over unless Senator Cullan would agree to take it up at this time.

SENATOR CLARK: It will be laid over. All right, take it up.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the motion before you is whether or not to indefinitely postpone this bill. I put this motion up here to raise the issue once again of the process we have followed in this legislation. You have before you in addition to Senator Newell's second amendment a couple, three, I guess three amendments from Senator Cullan. Senator Peterson has an amendment. I have two more amendments. Senator Schmit has a major amendment and I don't know how many more will be provided. And it is the result of trying to deal with legislation on the floor without having the public involved in the public hearing process, without taking the time to involve those interested in this issue other than those directly benefited in terms of special interest that are concerned about this bill. The bill, as you recall, was considered last year, advanced by the committee late in the session and held over until this session. Little or no action was done publicly with the issue and the bill rested there. At the start of the session consideration was given to introducing a bill by the Public Health Committee and a vote was taken to do that. The action, however, to introduce that bill was never taken because in lieu of that option Senator Cullan proposed those contents in the form of a motion to amend LB 378 which most people considered to be a dead issue basically and to be held until consideration was given to those features of the amendment that was later adopted by Senator Cullan. So the Cullan amendment was considered and unfortunately for the public and for us that amendment was adopted. It led to a great deal of debate on General File. You will recall the series of amendments that were considered. You recall the different issues that were discussed and I think at that time it became very clear the outrage that was felt by the public and by the press speaking for the public at the fact that the people were not involved in the decision of whether or not these amendments should be adopted. They were major amendments. No one can argue, I think, successfully that they should not have had a public hearing, and as we talked today about the fiftieth anniversary of our Capitol Building and I believe our Unicameral system is only slightly younger than that, we keep in mind the fact that this Legislature