

March 31, 1982

LB 942

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is offered by Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I previously circulated to you a copy of the amendment which I propose. As you recall on General File, Senator Warner...or as you recall, we objected to a section of the committee amendments which would have placed a bill that was before the Health and Welfare Committee into LB 942 and that bill was held by the committee and not advanced to the floor of the Legislature and the Legislature successfully rejected placing the provisions of that bill into this one. What the bill we rejected at that time did was allow the Director of the Department of Welfare the authority to decide which optional programs would be funded in Medicaid. The amendment which I have before you now is one which is designed to allow the Department of Welfare to handle the funding problem which they do have as far as Medicaid is concerned. The amendment retains mandatory services at full funding. Mandatory services in Nebraska are the following: Inpatient hospital and outpatient hospital services, laboratory and x-ray services, skilled nursing facility services for individuals 21 years and older, home health services, early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment for individuals under the age of 21, family planning services and supplies and physicians services. There are several optional services, in fact 18 different optional services that we have in Medicaid. They are chiropractic, private duty nursing, personal care services, skilled nursing for ages 21 and under, dental services, hearing aids, speech therapy, physical therapy, podiatry, medical equipment and prosthetic devices, oxygen, clinics, psychologists, visual care, that is for optometric and eye glasses, intermediate mental care for 65 and over, intermediate mental care for 21 and under, ICFMR, drugs and ambulance services. What I am doing with the amendments that are before you is allowing the Department of Welfare to prorate reductions in Medicaid funding if there are not sufficient funds appropriated to cover the Medicaid programs that we have in the State of Nebraska. The amendments fund mandatory services first and then optional services are funded...can be cut up to 10 percent before you would trigger an across the board cut in all services with some exceptions and those exceptions are for services which are paid for by the State of Nebraska, that being services provided by the Department of Public Institutions, skilled nursing for ages 21 and under, intermediate mental care for 65 and over, intermediate