

April 7, 1982

LB 928

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Vickers, would you like to close on your amendment? The question is the adoption of the Vickers amendment. All those in favor signify by voting aye, opposed nay.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Have you all voted? It takes 25. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Vickers' amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: The Vickers amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Higgins will now move to amend the bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, this amendment would increase the per bed license fee for nursing homes and hospitals by \$5 above what the appropriations fee has already adopted. The main reason for this amendment is to transfer to those facilities, nursing homes and hospitals, the expense of continually continuing to properly serve the medicare and medicaid reimbursement procedures already mandated by the federal government. In the last three months the federal government has reduced the medicare reimbursement to Nebraska for medicare inspections by almost \$150,000. Now the effect of this cut has been a loss of some employees, but at the same time the federal government has not reduced the burden of our health department to continue its mandated responsibilities in order to receive federal reimbursements for these programs. In other words, to receive back the 30 or 40 million dollars the federal government provides in medicare reimbursement we have to continue to conduct the inspections except the federal government has turned around and cut the funds they used to previously give us to provide for the cost of the inspections. So this amendment if adopted would restore almost \$150,000, it would be \$146,480, to allow the Department of Health to receive medicare reimbursement. I think it is only proper that those that would benefit from it would be willing to pay it. I visited with some of the people from the Hospital Association and they have no objections to the amendment, and the nursing home facilities representative that I talked to I did not get an answer from whether they have any concern about it or not. I asked Senator Warner about it and Senator Warner had