

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, sir. The violations found were in the annual inspections which the federal government mandates we do or we'll lose \$30 to \$40 million. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, I would ask for a ruling on the basis of germaneness. I believe that Senator Higgins' amendment deals specifically with nursing homes and my bill deals specifically with certificate of need.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Before you rule on that, may I point out that in Senator Cullan's bill on page 3, in my opening remarks I quoted exactly from his bill which is the same as my amendments and on the next page, 5, you will find where he deals with health care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities.

PRESIDENT: Fine.

SENATOR HIGGINS: It is the same chapter. He is dealing with nursing homes throughout the bill.

PRESIDENT: I'll save you the time by just saying that in keeping with my previous rulings on germaneness, I am consistent. I am going to rule it is germane. It is very broad but it is germane because it is a broad chapter. So, Senator Cullan, I will rule that it is germane, so proceed with whatever you want to do.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all, I would like to say that I recognize how sincere and how diligent Senator Higgins has been with respect to this issue. She has worked long and she has worked hard and I think she is trying to accomplish something in this area and I have the utmost respect for her efforts in that regard. I think there are some components of her bill which may be workable but I do not believe they should be attached as an amendment to LB 378 at this time. I will be working with Senator Higgins throughout the summer to try to come up with a solution to some of the problems that Senator Higgins mentions. I think that there should be some additional sanctions so far as for violations of statute other than revocation of license. I think that those need to be worked out and I think Senator Higgins raises a valid point in that regard. However, I think attaching this amendment to LB 378 at this point in time has a good chance of resulting in killing LB 378 because of the fiscal impact which the fiscal