

office tells us Senator Higgins' bill carries with it. And so I don't wish to risk those amendments to the certificate of need process which I've also worked on for two years. And as you know from the number of this bill, it has been pending before the Legislature since January, not of this year, but of the previous year and so I think it would be a little bit unfair to see this bill killed at this point in time because of some amendments which would result in negative votes on LB 378. So I am going to ask you to vote against Senator Higgins' amendments. I pledge to Senator Higgins and to anyone else interested in the nursing home industry my willingness to work with them on preparation of a bill for the next session of the Legislature that would provide for some changes in the penalty provisions so far as nursing homes are concerned but I would ask you not to attach it to a certificate of need bill on the fifty-eighth day of a sixty day legislative session and ask you to vote against Senator Higgins' amendments.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me say briefly and in opening that this is a bill that probably in some form I will vote for some day but I wanted to remind you all generally of the situation that we're in today, the fifty-eighth day of the legislative session. Effectively, if you do not amend this nursing home bill today, you have no opportunity to amend it because tomorrow no amendments can be attached, otherwise the bill is killed. If there is an amendment attached tomorrow the bill is effectively dead for this session. So what you are doing in this Unicameral where we have devised three stages of debate in order to make up for the lack of a second house, we are effectively, with regard to this particular amendment, not even preserving the three stages of debate, not even preserving the two stages of debate, but effectively today we have one stage of debate and one opportunity to amend a twenty-six page bill, in effect, that is being presented to you presently. All I am suggesting is that we're taking a high risk of some bad legislation and possibly putting ourself in an untenable position tomorrow should we discover that anything that we passed is incorrect or wrong because you will not be able to take it off. All you will be able to do is kill 378. So if that is your intention and you like what is in Senator Higgins' twenty-six pages and you know what is in the twenty-six pages, then perhaps you should go ahead and vote for it. All I am suggesting is that as a matter of good legislative practice, as a matter of retaining our reputation with the people for doing things in a businesslike manner, as a matter of caution, it is a highly risky thing to do to adopt these twenty-six pages today with no opportunity to amend and