

So it was hammered into us that we need to pass the Model Long-Term Care Regulatory Act. What Senator Abboud is bringing you here are amendments to our bill to make it remain consistent with the model act, and I think it's...I'm pleased he's doing that. I think it is important that we keep our act current with the national standards. I appreciate his bringing this bill and would urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, just real briefly. I appreciated Senator Withem's comments. Again, when he did chair that task force and the resulting work I think it was very positive for the state. I would say, in following up as well, that this bill does clear up one problem that we did have, and that was the prior hospitalization request. So for older citizens in the state, I've had many complaints across the State of Nebraska, people saying they can't get coverage unless they're in the hospital prior to going into the nursing home. And it's really been a problem. This federal change, and now the state change will mirror that, is going to help a lot of folks. This is a very good piece of legislation and I'm glad that we're going to see that we can take care of that problem. So I would support this very strongly.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any further discussion? Senator Abboud, would you care to close? Thank you. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 295 to E & R Initial. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 295.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 295 advances. LB 133.

CLERK: LB 133, Mr. President, by Senator Wehrbein. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to the Revenue Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, this bill is relatively simple. It changes exemptions required for cemeteries, the application time from four years to ten.