

PRESIDENT: The house is under call. Will you please return to your desks and record your presence. Those not in the Chamber, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. Unauthorized personnel, please leave the floor. Please look up to see if your light is on, and if it isn't, please turn it on. Thank you. A roll call has been requested, so we will be taking a roll call in a minute. Looking for Senator Ashford, Senator Baack, Senator Warner, Senator Chambers, Senator Goodrich, Senator Langford, Senator Hall. We are looking for Senator Goodrich now and Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely, I understand Senator Chambers is on his way and they are looking for Senator Goodrich. All right, we will go ahead with the roll call vote, and the question is the advancement of LB 338. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 644 of the Legislative Journal.) 26 ayes, 14 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: LB 338 advances. Move on to LB 378. The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 378 was a bill that was introduced by Senators Schellpeper and Dierks. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 12, referred to the Health Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (See page 499 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LB 378 is a bill brought to us by two members of the Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Schellpeper and Senator Dierks. It would create an Office of Rural Health under the Department of Health, and the committee amendments clarify the bill in allowing for the Office of Rural Health to charge a fee for providing assistance to a community. Of course, that would be determined by the office in conjunction with the community but would allow for that action. In addition, the advisory committee that is created under the bill would be increased by three members, a physician, an optometrist, and a physician's assistant would be included, and also there is a sunset on the advisory committee so that, hopefully, we can deal with this problem and see some progress made within a five-year period.