

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the Wesely amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. Anything further?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further on the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and explain the bill just real briefly again. You have currently licensure of administrators in nursing homes and they meet certain standards and then it was recognized last year that nursing homes that deal with the mentally retarded, ICFMRs they are called, had a special category and they shouldn't have to be nursing home administrator licensed. They should have a separate category. So we changed that last year. Now a new facility is being built to deal with a new type of a problem and that is the head injured individuals and this long-term care facility being built will deal specifically with those people. So rather than have to be a nursing home administrator licensed individual when you're dealing with a specific group of people that are head injured, we're taking them out of the general requirement and moving them into their own category as we did for the ICFMR. As for the specific requirements, they are listed on your committee statement and at this point they are simply what was brought to us and the committee did introduce the bill in conjunction with the Health Department and the nursing home involved. So I guess I'd leave it at that and ask for advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, please, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I, not being a member of the Health Committee, I don't know much about health care provisions. But before the session began, Senator Moore and Senator Coordsen and I met with some of our local nursing home administrators and nurses and they outlined to us some of the rather significant concerns they have with nursing home regulations and continued nursing home requirements for education and I realize that a lot of these changes are being forced upon our nursing homes in Nebraska on the national level, but I guess I would ask to Senator Wesely, if he is paying attention, what is the impetus behind making these changes here