

CLERK: 646, Mr. President, was introduced by Senators Schellpeper, Nelson and Baack. (Read.) The bill was introduced on January 19, referred to the Health Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments to the...LB 646, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Chairman Wesely on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 646 does become the committee amendments, with the adoption of them we do strike the original provisions of the bill. So these are important for you to follow. The original bill called for the mandate that all hospitals adopt rules and regulations that would allow for no discrimination between physicians and podiatrists for hospital privileges, that is that the bill provided that hospitals shall grant hospital and staff privileges to podiatrists. The hospitals and the physicians did not want to be forced to provide for hospital privileges for podiatrists, that's what the original bill called for. This is one bill that's an example of where long hearings provide some good results, because as a result of one of our longer hearings, and we didn't get to this bill until close to six o'clock, the podiatrists, the physicians and the hospitals were out in the hall waiting and had a chance to talk and in the communication between one another decided that maybe they could work this thing out, and had enough time to come back with an amendment. When we finally got to the hearing we had everybody in agreement. So sometimes forcing people together, whether it's in a room or in a hallway, can sometimes successfully deal with problems. So the committee amendments reflect a compromise struck between the hospitals, physicians and the podiatrists. Under the committee amendments the emphasis is on nondiscrimination between physicians and podiatrists, also osteopathic physicians and dentists. So none of those different areas would be discriminated against in terms of hospital privileges. It doesn't mandate that podiatrists have hospital privileges, but it does mandate that each hospital establish reasonable standards and procedures to consider when any of those individuals apply for medical staff membership and privileges. So the hospital sets up these standards, the application is made, they review the application based on those standards, and within 120 days give their recommendation regarding the membership or inclusion on the staff. This does set up a better system, a more reasonable nondiscriminatory