

April 6, 1989

LB 646

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: They were allowed in all hospitals, except in Omaha, really is the only place that they were not allowed into. The hospitals they were just part of it. It was always part of the hospitals before, the hospital boards. Now this will be up...it will say that they really don't have to have them on the board, but that they should have them on the board.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, that leads me to another question. Will this allow them to do surgery in the hospital?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: They already do that.

SENATOR HEFNER: I thought you said they weren't allowed to...

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: On the hospital staff.

SENATOR HEFNER: Oh, I see, they were allowed to do surgery in the hospital, but they were not a member of that particular hospital staff.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That's...yes.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Really, 646 is really, I guess, kind of a simple bill, if you're a podiatrist, but it's kind of hard to understand if you're not. But it would give the podiatrists staff privileges in a hospital. This is necessary for them to be able to properly treat their patients. The committee amendments are actually the bill. LB 646, in its current form, merely says that hospitals must use the same standards for determining privileges that are used for physicians and other medical practitioners who have these privileges. In other words, they cannot deny hospital privileges simply because the person is a podiatrist. The hospital would also be required to establish reasonable standards to determine medical staff privileges. They would have to notify the applicant within 120 days whether they will be granted or denied staff privileges. LB 646 is similar to the law currently in effect in Iowa. The bill was passed out of the hearing with everyone in support of it. And I think it would really help the podiatrists to better serve their patients. Thank you.