

facilities could qualify for government or private reimbursement without receiving a certificate of need. This closes up that loophole. It also makes it very clear that closing a hospital, a change in bed classification from intermediate care to skilled nursing care and that acquisition of a computer or other than diagnostic or therapeutic reasons is not subject to certificate of need. If they are going to use it simply for their bookkeeping and this kind of stuff, that is not subject to certificate of need, only if it is being used for diagnostic or therapeutic reasons with the...that is dealing with the computer system. And also the closing of a hospital would not be subject to certificate of need. There is also, the next change is in dealing with the expedited review, it's the short form of allowing for termination of single services, expenditures made necessary by disasters or emergency. This would provide for a short form of certificate of need review so they wouldn't have to go through the entire process. And the last change, the tenth one, is that it would be...it deals with the review of long-term care or skilled nursing beds, intermediate care beds, residential or domiciliary beds and hospital conversions to long-term care beds would continue after August 1, 1992. But since we did away with the sunset clause in there that is not necessary anyway because that is dealt with in another section, so we did address that in the committee amendments when we dealt with the sunset clause. With that, I would be glad to try and answer any questions. Some of these health care issues are, I will freely admit, are not my forte, but I have learned a lot in this process and I will try to answer any questions that I can. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Baack. Before we go on to our next speaker I'd like to announce that we have some special guests in the north balcony that are guests of Senator Ashford. We have 61 fourth graders from Hillside Elementary School in Omaha with their teacher. Would you all please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for joining us today. Amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. Senator, I have your AM1246 in front of me found on page 1648 of the Journal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is