

May 16, 1989

LB 813

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. And to Section 4. Senator Hannibal, would you handle it, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Sure. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, oh, okay, that's the 300,000? Yeah, okay. The committee has asked to add an additional \$300,000 in the second year of the biennium, '90-91, for the purpose of...in the Department of Public Institutions into the mental area for the purposes of emergency psychiatric care. The committee, in its original budget in 813, had added an additional \$300,000 in each year of the biennium for this very purpose, and we have had on subsequent hearings and testimony, and as a matter of fact, Senator Wesely was, I think, involved in this issue as well to ask for an additional \$300,000 in the second year of the biennium to help implement the plans based on a public policy issue that we ought not house mentally ill patients in our correctional facilities, but rather have them in facilities that are more suited for mentally ill patients as opposed to just a correctional facility. So what we're offering is an additional 300,000 so right...so what it would make it is first year 300,000, second year \$600,000 going into emergency psychiatric services, and that is what this fourth part of the amendment does.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Just very briefly again, my appreciate of the Appropriations Committee. I did have another amendment on the EPC question. We will probably again have to address this issue next year. There is a deadline of January 1991 to keep people out of jails that are mentally ill. This will require additional funding on top of what is already being proposed, but we don't know yet how much that will amount to. So we have to do at least this much, and I'm glad the committee recognized that. I'm just telling you that next session again this is another issue that we'll have to address. But this is the least we should do, and we absolutely need to take this step. So I would support the amendment and appreciate the work of the committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich.