

for ICFMR's, frankly, because of the difficulties right now in our mental retardation system. It's felt that this additional burden would not be appropriate at this time. Additional waivers dealing with nursing requirements that are under OBRA are also changed slightly by the committee amendments. They currently, under the bill, would be a one year waiver. This committee amendment would have them be a maximum of one year, and could be a shorter period of time. These waivers deal with the problem of OBRA requirements for skilled and intermediate care facilities and having a nursing staff, particularly RN nurses. And because of the problems in shortage of personnel in this area there is a provision for waivers under the bill, but the committee amendment would maximize those to one year and allow for a shorter period of time for a waiver, if that would be adequate. Tests are required on the grading...tests are required for these individuals and a grade of 80 percent or higher would be required, and in addition the training that we have, under the bill, would have to meet federal standards. With those explanations, I'd move for the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the committee amendments as explained by Senator Wesely? Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I just want to make a point that the committee amendments are the compromise that were worked out with the Nursing Association, the nursing homes and the Health Association. In the original bill the nurses did not quite like it the way we had it worded, and the committee amendments is a compromise that was worked out. So I would just urge that you adopt the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments? Any closing, Senator Wesely? Thank you. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 1080. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill, as amended. Senator Haberman. I'm sorry. Senator Schellpeper, you haven't opened yet. Proceed.