

SENATOR MCFARLAND: This is a bill that was heard in Judiciary. I'll just read briefly the summary or the purpose. It says that LB 579 amends the wrongful death statute settlement notice requirements to allow the judiciary to waive normal notice procedures with the permission of the court. It also allows the court to combine the settlement and distribution hearings. It was supported by the legal counsel for the Judiciary Committee. It was brought to us and also supported by the trial attorneys. There was no one opposed or testifying in a neutral capacity. It did advance from our committee on a 6-0 vote. I would urge you to pass it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there discussion? Seeing none, those in favor of the advancement of LB 579 to E & R Initial please vote aye, opposed nay. Shall LB 579 be advanced? That is the question. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of 579.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 579 advances. We'll skip over 834 at the request of the introducer until he arrives. LB 915, Mr. Clerk. Let's move on, Mr. Clerk, to LB 994.

CLERK: Mr. President, 994 was a bill introduced by Senator Schellpeper, Dierks, Coordsen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4, referred to Health and Human Services Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, if you will recall I had a rural health bill last year. We were attempting to set up a separate office last year, a separate commission and that bill was vetoed because of the structure of it. So we came back this year. We made this commission now part of the Rural Health Manpower Commission, so we're not setting up any new commission. All we're doing is just using the present commission that we have in structure right now and it will be the Rural Health Commission part of it. We need this bill in order so that some of the rural health clinics can get some federal money and also to help the rural towns and the rural areas to attract doctors and health clinics. It's a bill that I think has unanimous consent from the rural area because