

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. My amendment to 1064 is a fairly simple amendment, and I think it's noncontroversial. The only group I could imagine objecting to it might be the Nebraska Hospital Association and they have an amendment, they have a letter on your desk indicating their support of this measure. A few years ago we passed a bill in here that would have...that did put some new standards of regulation on nursing homes concerning their treatment of individuals who were on Medicaid. I had some problems up in my own district of individuals when they'd live in a nursing home for a numbers of years and they would, they would run out of private funds and have to go on Medicaid, they were being asked to vacate the premises because the nursing home chose not to participate in the Medicaid program. This Legislature passed a law saying that they can't do that after a person has lived in that home for 18 months, I believe it is, and is in fact a private-pay individual for that long, that they have to maintain their ability to stay in that nursing home after they go onto Medicaid. The way that was drafted it was not clear whether or not that applied only to freestanding nursing homes or whether it applied to nursing homes that were connected with hospitals. What this particular amendment does is it clarifies for that purpose...purposes of that statute only hospital owned nursing homes are subject to this same specific regulation, not all regulations but this specific regulation. If there are any questions, I'd seek to answer those. If not, I would urge your adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the Withem amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Withem amendment is adopted. Do you have anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Peterson would move to amend. (Peterson AM3027 appears on pages 1423-27 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President, we got a little confusion here and I apologize for that. Last week...I'm going to bring you up