

688 is a bill that was the result of a citation which was issued by the State Department of Health to a group home in the Panhandle that provides services to the mentally retarded and they were cited because there was a question about the scope of practice in administering certain medical procedures within the group home the Department of Health said was not covered within the scope of practice. So 688, after much compromise and debate, became a bill in effect to establish a moratorium for the Department of Health to allow all of the parties involved to study this issue and come to a compromise about how indeed these procedures would be handled within a group home. And what it does at this point is seriously jeopardized because of the fact that the Department of Health will possibly have an obligation to go into group homes throughout the State of Nebraska, citing these group homes for violation of the scope of practice of those homes and will in effect force the providers, whether it be the regions, the private providers or others, to say we can't take care of these children; you're either going to have to take them back into your homes, you're going to have to send them back into the institutions that they came from.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: And so basically what this bill does now is put a moratorium on this till July 1 of 1991 to study the problem and come up with solutions that will be suitable for all involved.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Byars, and I think that's kind of where I get back to and the real unfortunate nature of it. I'm not trying to condemn. I'm not trying to point fingers. I'm just trying to say all of us knew that there would be an attempt one more time for 769, particularly to make a point, to try to make a statement. We all knew that. I expected it, I would expect nothing less. If I were on the other side it's is exactly what I would be doing, but I would also know, and I think everyone else knew what would happen. And I guess...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...I get very, very...inside I have a lot of hard feelings because things that Senator Byars just talked about now are being jeopardized, some really good things that are happening to some really good people. And some really