

March 4, 1991

LB 325, 363

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 325 is advanced. LB 363.

CLERK: Madam President, 363 was a bill introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 17, referred to Health and Human Services, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Health Committee. (See AM0072 on page 533 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. LB 363 is a piece of legislation, an attempt to help contain, to some small degree, health care costs. As we all know, there are generic drugs that have been in use in this country for sometime now. We have provided some years ago for the opportunity to pharmacists to select less expensive generic drugs that are, basically, equivalent to the brand name but more expensive drugs that an individual may have prescribed for them. There were certain exceptions made in the statute as to what could be generically selected. This bill would alter that exemption and allow for those drugs under that exemption who are bioequivalent to the prescribed drug to be generically substituted. The committee amendment adds to the bioequivalent the term "therapeutically equivalent" as well. So it is an added precaution that the generic drug selected is not only bioequivalent but therapeutically equivalent, so that would be the committee amendment and I'd move for its adoption.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Does anyone wish to debate these amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing? Closing is waived. We will proceed to vote on the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 363. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Have you all voted? We are voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of committee...Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now go to Senator Wesely on the bill as amended.