

March 6, 1991

LB 244

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Seeing no one wishing to debate this motion, do you have a closing, Senator Wesely?

SENATOR WESELY: I just want to note that we're trying to bring our statutes up to date with the federal requirements. This amendment will accomplish part of that. There may...there are further amendments that we'll need that we're still working on but we'll propose those on Select File. With that, I would close and ask for adoption of the amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments: All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

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

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, Madam President, LB 244, I passed out I think, that most of you have on your desk, what it really does. It goes on to a little more than what we did last year. We had LB 1080 last year and this also brings us into compliance with federal regs and that's what we're really trying to do. And, as we get into these bills that deal with nursing homes, it's mainly we're not trying to expand anything, we're just trying to bring us into compliance with our federal regs. We're having a problem in especially rural Nebraska just trying to get enough nurses, RNs mainly, to staff our nursing facilities. And that's what this bill will really attempt to do that you can grant a one-year waiver if you go through all of the policy that you have to go through and if you can't find an RN, this will let you have a little bit...have that waiver. I think if you will read the memo, it will explain exactly what it does. I'm not going to get into the whole bill because we're not really trying to do anything that measure...or major. This will add long-term care hospitals. That's one additional thing that we are doing and we have to do that because of the federal regs. Now if you're...it will let the director of nursing serve as the charge nurse if you are under 60 patients which will help many of our rural nursing homes. So I think, with that, I will just