

March 25, 1991

LB 427, 798

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 427 is advanced. We will now proceed to LB 798, introduced by Senator Lowell Johnson.

CLERK: Mr. President, 798 introduced by Senator Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23, referred to the Government Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Conway, on the amendments to LB 798.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, the committee amendments to 798 were very simple as were directed by the suggestion of the bond counsel in that currently many of the hospitals are working with various revenue finance debt which isn't what we're talking about here, we're talking about general obligation debt that would be incurred for the capital construction of these county hospitals. So they simply wanted it very clear in there that we weren't trying to entangle revenue and general obligation type debt together, that the revenue finance debt is separate and will continue as it has in the past.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there any discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing no discussion, do you wish to close, Senator Conway? He waives closing. We will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments to LB 798. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now go to Senator Lowell Johnson, the introducer of the bill. Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the explanation given by Senator Conway, Chairman of the Government Committee. As explained, LB 798, in its original form, would have amended two sections by changing the cost limitation on improvements or equipment purchases for a county hospital facility. Currently, the statutes direct that any proposed improvement or equipment purchase which exceeds one-half of the original cost of such facility shall be submitted to the voters