

agents both oral and topical, ocular pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of glaucoma. The real issue focuses in on the issue of treatment of glaucoma. Under the committee amendment this expanded scope of practice for optometrists is placed under the review of the Board of Examiners of Medicine and Surgery and is not placed under the Board of Optometry which is a point of contention between the optometrists and the ophthalmologists. There is a requirement that an ophthalmologist be supervising the optometrist in the utilization of this activity. It requires the supervision could possibly be through telecommunication and is an attempt to expand the scope of practice for optometrists with very tight oversight and supervision by the ophthalmologists who again are very concerned about this expanded scope of practice. Currently there are very few states in this nation that allow optometrists to be able to utilize pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of glaucoma. Nebraska in general has been quite progressive would be one terminology in allowing optometrists the use of eye drops and pharmaceutical agents in their practice. Others, one state is progressive but perhaps loose in our restrictions all depending on your point of view, but nevertheless, as Nebraska has been one of the first states in the nation to allow optometrists to move forward in practice areas that many other areas in the country do not allow them to be engaged in. I'm giving you a very general background about the issue pending a question about whether we proceed with the bill. There are amendments I know going to be offered both, from both sides of the issue. My role in this is to try and work through the issue with both sides and recognize their legitimate positions by both. I would like to note that this measure has been through a 407 review process, the process this Legislature set up many years ago to try to deal with the question of scope of practice with a detached viewpoint with some experts attempting to review the situation. The 407 review was favorable to the general concept here embodied here in this legislation and so that should be taken into account as well. With that, I'd give you that introduction to the issue and I guess we'll see how we proceed at this point, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment to the committee amendments?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have AM1250, page 1653 of the Journal.