

the state approved exam is reinserted. So this changes what was in the last amendment or the bill that we adopted last year. But let me tell you some of the experiences that I have had in some of the rural areas. Now optometrists, we have quite a few of those throughout the state but to get the services of an ophthalmologist, well, you usually have to go to a little larger city and then not only that but it's hard to get into those. It's hard to get an appointment from those and sometimes it takes weeks to get an appointment. So I think we need to be a little broader in our views and give some of this...these services to these optometrists. I believe these optometrists, the ones that I know anyway, are very sincere in their practice and they...they won't do things that they don't feel comfortable with. They'll refer them to an optometrist...or ophthalmologist. But I just say that we need a bill such as this, especially in our rural areas because many of our people are elderly people, it's hard for them to get to a larger city where if they can go to the local town and go to an optometrist, well, this is certainly...it would certainly be good for them. I believe, with this amendment, that we do have the proper safeguards in this bill. I don't think we need to tighten them up anymore. Like Senator Moore said, there's a number of states that have it like this and I'm familiar with the State of Iowa and I know they have a law and regulation such as this. So I would encourage you to support the Moore amendment on this bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the amendment by striking Sections 5 and 6, Senator. (The Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment appears on page 689 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I do this more for at least in my judgment it gives the Legislature to make a clearer policy decision. What I see happen is we've got the Moore amendment that is going to take it off of the board that we currently have, the Board of Medicine, and put it into the Board of Optometry. But there are some things in the amendment that I think most of the body would like, particularly the education part that goes back in that should have been in before, it was accidentally taken out. So if we just have the amendment by itself, there are some good