

April 7, 1992

LB 1019

sit there and don't vote on a tough bill don't stand up and chastise the balance of the body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. We will proceed with General File, LB 1019.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 1019 was introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee and signed by its members. (Read Title.) The bill was introduced, Madam President, on January 10 of this year, referred to Health Committee, advanced to General File. I have Health Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members of the Legislature, I want to begin by thanking Speaker Baack for placing this important bill on the agenda. This is a very important piece of legislation to pass this session, and I will go through the number of provisions it includes. One of the reasons every year you have a major bill cleaning up Health Department statutes is that the Health Department is a regulatory agency subject to very many federal rules and regulations that have certain deadlines that have to be met. So every year we seem to be in a situation like we are with LB 1019, needing to pass a piece of legislation to comply with various mandates that we face. Let me run through very briefly what the bill does. First off, the bill deals with the Wholesale Drug Distributor Licensing Act. This is a proposal from the federal government under OBRA '90, that was actually to be adopted prior to this point in time, but absolutely needs to pass this session. It was adopted by the Congress and is intended to try to help stem drug trafficking and put more restrictions in place in the distribution of drugs. So that particular provision of the bill was essential to be passed. We also have under that a number of redefinitions under federal rules and regs dealing with anabolic steroids and some other matters to help again with that particular problem. We also deal with questions involving fees. In a number of areas dealing with...we have I think health, the funeral directors, the hearing aid people, the...lab--let me look here--occupational therapists are a couple of areas where we make adjustments in their fee schedules. One of the things we find is that our law currently provides that the licensure of health professionals is not General Fund supported. It needs to be fee supported to the Cash Fund, and so under that mandate