

April 7, 1992

LB 1019

SENATOR HALL: As well.

SENATOR LAMB: Uh-huh.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I think Senator Hall's concern was one I had with the bill, but after reviewing it the committee and I felt that it was okay to allow for these county hospitals the same...have the same authority as other hospitals, not that we desire to see every hospital in the world building new medical buildings and clinics, but again they would have to go through a certificate of need to be approved. There are something like 23 county hospitals out of the 90-some hospitals in the state. And currently, as I understand it, they're not able to take this step that other hospitals are. And these are usually the small, rural hospitals that are in this situation. And so allowing them this opportunity if they so desire, and if it's approved by certificate of need it seems appropriate. So I will support the Lamb amendment with some reservations, but recognizing the circumstances, this seemed to warrant the bill. I will support the Lamb amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I support Senator Lamb's amendment. Basic question of rural health care and rural health delivery and availability that we've discussed in other bills, Senator Lamb's amendment will allow the flexibility we need to attract medical professionals and to provide facilities. I'd urge adoption. I think it's very important to recognize the differences between urban health care and rural health care and in recognizing that difference giving us the ability to attract, build and maintain. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Madam President, members of this Legislature. Senator Lamb, I have a question if you would yield please.