

SENATOR LAMB: Yes.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Do you know you...does this include any other government entity? And I use an example of a small town that perhaps has a doctor that has had just a clinic or an office and finds for whatever reason he cannot continue. A lot of it has been financial because of the Medicare. Could a town decide to purchase that office space and lease to him? Is that acceptable also?

SENATOR LAMB: I don't believe so. I believe it would have to be the county hospital or the county...or the hospital district would have to do this. There's nothing in this amendment that would allow other governmental entities, in my opinion, to do that.

SENATOR HILLMAN: So it would just be hospitals.

SENATOR LAMB: It says a political subdivision, state agency, or other governmental entity which owns or operates a hospital or hospital health service. I really don't believe it would allow a city to do that, but it would allow the hospital district or the county hospital board...

SENATOR HILLMAN: Or the county.

SENATOR LAMB: ...to do that.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, thank you very much.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I will support on General File Senator Lamb's amendment. However, I'd like just to draw to your attention if in fact a county can lease space, or worse yet build a building, and then lease it back to medical professionals I think that should have to be justified. In Omaha, Nebraska right now there is a hospital that's half empty, or half full depending upon your point of view, that's spending almost \$20 million adding on more parking and outpatient facilities. Just think about that. There's only about \$250 million worth of spending going on in the state now by hospitals. It will have nothing to do with quality care at all. They have so much money in their reserves; they're spending it,