

September 29, 1992 LB 4, 21

SENATOR NELSON: Yes.

SENATOR WARNER: The motion is to advance LB 21. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 21.

SENATOR WARNER: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. LB 4, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 4 was a bill that was introduced by Senator Wesely at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on September 21, referred to the Health Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Health and Human Services Committee.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 4, as was indicated, deals with LB 830 passed in the 1991 legislative session and was a landmark piece of legislation dealing with services to those individuals who have developmental disabilities in the state. There were a number of provisions in LB 830 that were included when it was passed. Two of those provisions, actually three of the provisions are dealt with with this bill. The first provisions deals with the date by which we entitle individuals who reach the age of 21, or graduate from the special education program, and allow them to be granted services in the community rather than having, in many cases, to wait years for those services. Another change for all those hundreds of individuals waiting on waiting lists for services in our developmental disabilities services July 1 of 1993 likewise would be entitled to case management services to deal with their concerns. In addition, there is an intent language for full entitlement for all developmental disabilities persons that we had talked about a target date of July 1, 1994 and under this bill would be delayed till 1996. So, essentially, everything that called for various entitlements are delayed for a two-year period of time. We had a hearing in which, if you look at the committee statement, we had a large number of testifiers giving emotional, dramatic testimony about the importance of these programs. It was a very moving hearing, one that I think anybody who was there was very affected by.