

February 14, 1995 LB 366

health department as a department of the county hospital. This concept had support from some of the counties and county hospitals, but also had some concerns expressed at the hearing. And in deference to those concerns and in an attempt to try and accommodate those, Senator Bromm, I believe, supported and the committee agreed to an amendment that deleted the sections allowing the county hospital to establish a county health department. And I think that issue may come back at a later point. But at this point we'd ask support for the committee amendments and delete those sections that allow a county health department to be part...a department of a county hospital.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Wesely described the situation accurately. There are some 11 county health departments in the state and 27 county hospitals. We have decided because there needs to be more discussion on this particular component of the bill, to ask the body to...and ask the committee to delete Sections 5, 6 and 7 dealing with that from the bill. I support the committee amendments and would urge the body to do so.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Is there any discussion of the committee amendments? Seeing none, there is no closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 366. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Bromm to open on LB 366.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. I will briefly describe to the body what the bill now does. It's a bit of a cleanup bill in some respects, making some changes which would be conducive to helping hospitals operate a little more efficiently. The most important part of the bill is found in Section 2 and it deals with the ability to have some flexibility in terms of leasing by a county facility. Under current law the county or the leasing entity has no ability to continue to be responsible for any costs of operation or management, that all has to be turned over to the lessee, or at least that's the