

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Hall, your light is next.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. Senator Bromm, I do have a real simple question. I apologize, I was listening all the way up to the end, then I got interrupted when I think you were on the section that I was interested in. It was the...page 13, it's Section 8, and it's the language on...at the top where we add health system to the definition that says, for purposes of Section 71-2056 through 2061, unless the context otherwise requires, and we go through definition of the sections. It says, hospital health services means but is not limited to...I understand that the additional health care, clinical, diagnostic, or rehabilitative service, but then we say, and any administrative, managerial health system or operational services. What are we...when we're adding health system, what are we doing there?

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, the...my understanding, Senator Hall, of the reason for needing to add that is that this, of course, broadens the definition a little bit. And the main purpose of it is, as I remember, to allow cooperative ventures more easily under the Public Hospitals Act. And where we have more integration of health care services, I guess this makes people more comfortable in what hospitals can do in terms of cooperative ventures.

SENATOR HALL: So would this then allow...I mean because we're talking about county hospitals...

SENATOR BROMM: Correct.

SENATOR HALL: ...in this case, as opposed to our standard not-for-profit, who do many of those kind of joint ventures now. So we're expanding it to allow for county hospitals to possibly contract with a group of providers, a group of doctors for purposes of a joint venture?

SENATOR BROMM: I believe that's right, Senator.

SENATOR HALL: And I'm not saying that I oppose that.

SENATOR BROMM: Right.