

introduced and as the committee had the hearing. We did have discussions between physicians and nurses and this is more or less dealing with the number of problems that were identified with additional problems remaining that will have to be addressed with the amendments that Senator Withem mentioned. So we really need to get this amendment adopted to get the bill in at least technically correct form. And let me run through once again just some of the changes and then others will be superseded by filing amendments. But the first one we dealt with was the original draft of this had...this cooperative agreement basically was drafted by the nurse practitioner and wasn't signed off on really by the physicians. Senator Matzke will remember we got into some discussion about that. But this says you can't just do that. You have to have a joint agreement between a nurse practitioner and a physician and there has to be some acknowledgement by the physician that they agree with that. Otherwise, it was sort of an independent practice referencing a physician without the physician necessarily agreeing to such a reference. So that's one thing that's changed. Also we go from two to one physician being involved in that, but at least that physician agrees with the decision to cooperate with the nurse practitioner. We have again a limitation. One of the things that came up at the hearing was allowing prescription authority to nurses and the fear of Schedule II drugs which are more or less addictive type drugs, wanted to put a limit on how much authority there was to prescribe those drugs and so this puts a 72-hour sort of an emergency supply limit on what a nurse practitioner can do in that regard. We also heard if there is a move toward more independent practice that nurse practitioners ought to have some liability insurance. That's included in this amendment and dealing with complaints we reference back again how those will be handled and some other references within the statute. So it is important that we adopt these amendments. I'd ask your support for the committee amendments and then we can get to the more extensive discussion on the remaining issues.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 414. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of committee amendments.