

January 8, 1996 LB 414

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. We turn now to discussion of LB 414. The chair recognizes Senator Withem to open on the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Very brief opening because I think in the discussion we've had to date we probably discussed the bill considerably. The area of nurse practitioners is a special area of nursing that has advanced training beyond the realm of that required for a registered nurse. In most other states, those individuals are able to practice in a fashion that is not beyond their scope of training by any stretch of the imagination with a far greater degree of independence than they enjoy in Nebraska. We did pass a bill early on in my tenure in the Legislature recognizing the area of nurse practitioners, requiring that they practice in a cooperative agreement with physicians. And a number of the nurse practitioners over the course of the existence of this bill have found it difficult to make those arrangements work. And all they are asking is that our statutes and our regulatory system recognize their level of training, level of expertise, and allow them to practice as they do in many other states. The committee amendments I think largely become the bill. AM2750 will further refine the bill so I'd suggest we get on with a description of those proposals.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, the first motion I have is from Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to indefinitely postpone the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Pass over it for now.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Withem and Wesely would move to amend. I have AM2750 in front of me, Senator. (See pages 320-22 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The chair recognizes Senator Wesely. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: We drew straws and I lost I guess so I'll begin the explanation and allow Senator Wesely to carry on with that.