

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is ceased. Senator Wesely, to close on the motion to adopt the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESFLY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we've talked a lot about the bill, itself. The committee amendments, again, the vast bulk of these many pages are simply taking current statutes and the reference changes on what departments are involved in this restructuring are referenced appropriately. So that's the bulk of it. The other changes, again, we changed the name of the Department of Standards and Evaluation to the Department of Regulation and Licensure, the thought being that is clearer in terms of the function of what it does. We also clarified that the option of not having a physician as head of the Department of Regulation and Licensure, would require that a doctor head up the oversight of health professionals, at least in that case. So that's included. We talk about the December report including the draft legislation that would follow up on the implementation of this bill. We talk about the need for expertise rather than just interest in health and human services to qualify to be appointed as a director of an agency. We also talk about strengthening the Policy Secretary's role, having them confirmed by the Legislature, and sharing both the Policy Cabinet and the partnership council, so that strengthens that Secretary role from what was previously in the bill. I hope you will support the committee amendments and ask for your adoption. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. You've heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All of those in favor of adopting the committee amendments vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 2' ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Committee amendments are adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, to open on the bill.