

February 28, 1996 LB 1108, 1278

CLERK: Senator Matzke would move to amend with AM3361. The members will find copies on their desk tops. (See page 955 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, last fall the Board of Examiners of the Department of Health ruled that Nebraska pharmacies could not fill drug prescriptions written by out-of-state doctors. This worked a great hardship on patients in this state who for some reason or other went to doctors out of the state. It had particular effect on citizens living close to the borders of Nebraska. In my home area many people go to Sterling, Colorado or Cheyenne, Wyoming, or even Rapid City, South Dakota for medical care. And if they got a drug prescription and they came back to Nebraska, our pharmacists were not permitted to fill that prescription. So I introduced LB 1278 along with Senator Engel and Senator Schellpeper to put back into effect the rule that had existed prior to this November ruling. There was a public hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee on LB 1278. No one testified in opposition. The bill was advanced by a unanimous seven to zero vote. And this amendment would amend LB 1278 onto Senator Dierks' bill, which deals with other medical matters. If there are any questions, I'd be glad to respond.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I, too, am very interested in this because I live on a border area in northeast Nebraska where most of our doctors are across the river in Iowa. And by amending this bill, the people in South Sioux City and in northeast Nebraska will be able to have their prescription filled by our local pharmacies. And also our nursing homes, where our local pharmacy deliver to them, it would be a great hardship upon them if this is not enacted. So I do appreciate your listening and passage of this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, very