

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the committee amendments are fairly simple. What they do is designate separate shortage areas for pharmacy, dentistry, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. I think that's...I think that's the purpose of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay, thank you. On the committee amendments, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Dierks, if you'd just yield to a couple quick questions. I'll do one on the committee amendments and one on the bill and be done with it. The committee amendment, why, just out of curiosity, why do we want them to periodically, which doesn't mean anything, it just means whenever they want to, come out and say there's certain shortage areas where? Don't we already have that information at the Department of Health and other areas? And I'm just kind of curious what the rationale was.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I normally don't enter into this, but Senator Dierks kind of did emergency service on the committee amendments. I see Senator Wesely is here. Would he be as appropriate an individual to direct that question to?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: What you're asking me, if he is an appropriate individual. Yes. Do I want to ask an appropriate individual? The answer is still yes. Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: On the.... And, Senator Dierks, I know you could have answered that as well. Senator Wesely, on the committee amendments, to bring you up to speed, the only thing you added was periodically they would put shortage...they would designate shortage areas. What was the rationale, 'cause my thought was (A) periodically doesn't mean anything, it's just whenever they get around to it. (B) Don't we already have the information in other sources about where shortages now occur? So I was just asking what the rationale for the amendment was.

SENATOR WESELY: The answer is that currently the shortage areas are designated to what is now covered by these different loan programs, physicians and nurses. And the expansion that Senator