

April 4, 1996

LB 1055, 1155, 1257

Health Commitment Act to get treatment. Small counties that were exempted on terms of jailing the mentally ill would not retain that exemption, and we deal with the medical services director at DPI and clarifying their role. And finally, the amendment deals with Senator Robak's bill, LB 1257. Senator Robak's bill dealt with downsizing the regional centers and what we have proposed here is that if downsizing should occur that the money continue to be invested in mental health services in the community. With that, I'd ask for adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. On the Wesely amendment, Senator Bernard-Stevens followed by Senator Wehrbein. Excuse me, Senator Bernard-Stevens. There is an amendment pending to this amendment which would be in order to be taken up now. Senator or Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Maurstad would move to amend with an amendment found on page 1605. (See AM4161.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment has been in the Journal. It's a very simple amendment. I visited with both Senator Wesely and Senator Robak concerning this, and I'll let them speak to it if they wish to. It deals with Section 92 of this bill, I mean this amendment. And all it really does is strikes the word "local" from line 34. In essence, what we're saying in LB 1055 is, and I think there will be and continue to be a movement for the state to assume the responsibility for funding in this area. If that's the case and if that's going to be policy, future policy, then I think that we shouldn't have a provision in this bill that would provide in the area of mental health that the local sources would continue to need to be there. So it's essentially that simple. I see it as a contradiction to some, the provisions that are in legislation that we're considering now. I see it as a contradiction for the direction that the state is moving in this particular area and would entertain any questions but ask for the adoption of the amendment to the Wesely amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the opening. Now pending is the Maurstad amendment found on Journal page 1605 that is being offered to AM3673. To discuss that amendment, Senator