

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 11, 1999 LB 17

language in Section 4 that an estimate of the number of pages that comprise a medical record is sufficient to set the copying fee to be paid in advance of delivery of such record by the provider. This language was found to be not necessarily...necessary because nothing in statute would prevent this practice. And then finally, in Section 6, that change in the language in Section 6 is just a rewrite of existing language to clear up some confusion as to what that section meant. With that, I would turn the remainder of the opening over to Senator Jensen for anything he would like to add.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen, you have approximately seven minutes.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I do want to thank Senator Coordsen for this opportunity and then also thank him and Senator Chambers, Senator Brashear for their interests and their work in this issue. Like I said, there were three bills that were introduced and brought now into one and carried by LB 17 of Senator...by Senator Coordsen. Senator Coordsen has explained the amendment. It is simply intended to clean up the bill and make it better. There is just one issue that I would briefly clarify for the record. There was a concern raised by the definition of the word "provider" in the bill. The provider is the practitioner or facility who provides healthcare services to the patient, who has the patient's medical records and is required to provide them to the patient on request. Some facilities contract with separate companies to actually process the records requested. I just wanted to make it clear, as agents of the provider of the healthcare services, those companies are also implicitly included in the bill. The treating physician or healthcare facility is probably going to receive the request first and the bill recognizes that the provider may contract with someone else to process the request. The bill doesn't intend to leave them out. I just wanted to make it clear, however, that it isn't the agent of the provider who makes the decision, for example, to delete confidential information about the patient or family member who hasn't consented to the release of the medical information. I was asked if I'd clarify that for the record. I hope I've done that. I, again, thank Senator Coordsen for his work and diligence in this area, and I would thank the body and