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LB 559

harmonizing changes to the bill. These changes and others are included now in AM1129, which I have offered with Senator Kristensen. That amendment expands the changes made in the committee amendment and becomes the white copy of the bill. I would urge adoption of the committee amendments and I can also then explain AM1129.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. Senator Jensen, you have an amendment to the committee amendment? (AM1129 is found on page 1334 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I would like to briefly describe the amendment and then yield any of the remainder of the opening to Senator Kristensen, if he would so desire. The amendment shortens the finding section of the bill. The amendment specifically says that we will only reimburse under Medicaid for healthcare services provided through telehealth by Medicaid providers who are licensed, registered, or certified by the state of Nebraska. It adds a definition for telehealth consultation. It clarifies the informed consent provisions of the bill. Then it moves the effective date of the bill and the date for the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support to have rules and regulation in place by July 1 of 2000. Simply gives them more time to come up with those rules and regulations. It makes other technical changes to the bill and, like I said, the white copy now becomes the bill, and I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments and would give any further time in the opening to Senator Kristensen, if he would so desire.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, you have a little less than nine minutes.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I certainly don't intend to use that nine minutes and, as you can see, Senator Jensen, you know, this state, Senator Jensen, we have a lot of disagreements sometimes that they're rural/urban splits. This is a classic case of what had appeared maybe on its face to some to be that. It's not the case at all. And I really want to thank Senator Jensen and that committee for the work they've done here and I, maybe it sounds corny to all of you, but I can't tell you how pleased I am and I think that this is a big