

issue is off the table right now, the glaucoma issue. So what we're talking about now is oral medications for the treatment of eye diseases. Now in the original bill, there's another element that I haven't mentioned yet that's also included under the review process and that's the removal of superficial elements in the eye, foreign bodies is what they're called, and it hasn't been clear that that's something that an optometrist can do. And so this does clarify that issue as well that they can remove foreign bodies. Now the original bill said remove foreign bodies. We add "superficial eyelid, conjunctival and corneal" superficial foreign bodies, so making it clear that if you have a serious problem, that would be for somebody with more training than an optometrist, but for a superficial type of a problem that they can help remove that from the eye, that foreign body. Then, in addition, with the bill there was talk about being able to use oral pharmaceuticals to treat various eye diseases. The committee amendment clarifies and restricts what we're talking about here, making it much narrower in what can be allowed, oral analgesics again, and the focus is on eye infection, inflammation and superficial abrasions, that's the focus of what you're using this for, and does not allow for steroids. It's specifically prohibited under the committee amendment, which was a concern that the committee had. So what I believe the committee amendment does is tighten up the provisions of 429 and clarify exactly what optometrists would be able to do. That's a background on the issue and I would ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kristensen would move to amend the committee amendments. (The Kristensen amendment, AM1175, appears on page 1289 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature. You know, I hate turf wars, they're never much fun, and particularly when it deals with areas that we're not all familiar with every day of the week, and certainly eye wars and eye care is just such an issue. I'm going to vote for LB 429. I, too, as many of you, am tired of probably having this issue come to me year after year and not knowing which side to vote for, as both sides will make some points and in the