

April 29, 1993      LB 430, 669

SENATOR ABOUD:      Mr. President, I would request that that amendment be withdrawn at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK:      It is withdrawn. Nothing further on the bill. Does anyone wish to speak to the advancement of LB 430? Seeing no one, Senator Abboud, would you like to close on the advancement? He waives closing. We will now vote on the advancement of LB 430. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:      26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 430.

SPEAKER BAACK:      LB 430 advances. We'll go to LB 669.

CLERK:      Mr. President, 669 was a bill introduced by Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21st, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Health Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK:      Senator Wesely, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WESELY:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, LB 669 is a bill that originated with a request from myself and the Health Director, Dr. Gregg Wright at that time, in 1989, to look into the issue of the regulation of mental health practitioners. A review process, a task force was formed at that time which eventually released a report last year recommending the merger of regulation of social workers, counselors and the additional regulation of marriage and family therapists. The 407 Review Process, the task force process that resulted in these recommendations has brought forth LB 669 by Senator Bernard-Stevens. And, at the hearing on the bill, we did have a number of concerns raised about the bill as introduced and so the committee did work with the introducer and the other proponents of the legislation who came back with amendments to the bill that essentially reflect the original intent but clarify some concerns that have been expressed. In essence, what LB 669 does is take a situation where back about seven or eight years ago we took the step of recognizing social workers and counselors in regulation and we set up a system to recognize certified master social workers and certified social workers and professional counselors and we gave them these titles and gave them recognition in the statutes and set standards for them to