



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 292**

Hearing Date: February 21, 2007
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Hansen)
Title: Provide for transfers of county funds for medicaid purposes

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes	Senator(s): Johnson, Erdman, Hansen, Howard, Stuthman, Pankonin
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Gay

Proponents:
Senator Tom Hansen
James Cavanaugh
Jon Edwards
Kerry P. Eagan
Mary Steiner
Erin Mass
David Burd

Representing:
Introducer
Creighton University Medical Center
National Association of Counties
Lancaster County
Health and Human Services System
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Nebraska Hospital Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 292 relates to public assistance. The bill permits county boards to transfer county public assistance funds to the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support (department) to pay providers who serve Medicaid recipients or low-income uninsured persons and meet federal and state disproportionate share payment requirements under section 68-910(2)(c).

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment (AM 444) changes provisions relating to the ICF/MR Reimbursement Protection Act. Section 68-1803 currently requires each intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded to pay a tax equal to six percent (6%) of its net revenue each fiscal year. The amendment changes the tax to five and one-half percent (5.5%).

Congress recently passed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. The act changes the maximum provider tax rate to 5.5% beginning 1-1-08 through FY 2011. The committee amendment would conform state law to the newly adopted federal law, in order to ensure Nebraska's compliance with the federal act.

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson