Nurse Bill Is Defended By Author

Caller-Times Austin Bureau
AUSTIN—The author of a bill
which licensed vocational nurses
charge will put them out of business calls the charges "bologna".

In fact, Rep. Russell Cummings of Houston, has proposed to the subcommittee looking into the charges, an amendment which specifically exempts LVNs from the proposed professional nursing license act.

His aim in House Bill 359 is to make sure that hospitals employ people who are well versed in medical practices "when their judgment can make the difference between life and death," by requiring that they be licensed.

Licensing by the Board of Nurse Examiners is required in his bill for the most intensive types of care. However, the proposed amendment would also allow people who have bean approved by a doctor to be included, and allows for LVN's to continue to practice vocational nursing without having to get a registered nursing license.

He said the LVNs don't really understand the bill, but, "have just been led astray by hospital superintendents who are opposed to it." The reason the superintendents are opposed is a matter of "profit and loss," Cummings said.

If this bill passes, he said, the superintendents will have to pay higher wages to get qualified people to administer the different vital functions of a hospital.

He said that the superintendents are not medical men, but are business men, who will put orderlies or LVNs in charge of something like an intensive care unit."

"LVNs and orderlies could still run the intensive care unit," he said, "but they would first have to > approved by a doctor so that the patients are