

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate March 11, 2021

**FOLEY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the forty-first day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Erdman. Please rise.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Let's pray. Father, we thank you for this opportunity to gather here today to do the business of the state. We pray that you would give us wisdom. Your word says if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of you and you'll give to us liberally. We ask for that today. We also pray, Lord, for those who are going to be suffering under the severe weather that's coming to my district in the western part of the state, especially those livestock producers that are going to deal with the snow and the blizzard conditions. We pray you to keep them safe. The first responders and those who keep our electricity on, be with them as well. We pray this morning also, Lord, that you would remove the fear from people's hearts because of this pandemic. Only you can do that and we pray that you would do that. We pray you would minister to those people who are locked in, those people in the care facilities that can't be visited. We pray for those who have had mental anguish over this pandemic and the fear that it has brought upon them. We know that fear does not come from you and so we pray that we put our trust in you and that you would help us to get over our fears and understand that if we trust you, that your word says fear does not come from you. Help us to have the faith to overcome this. We pray for wisdom for those who are guiding these DHMs and the decisions that are made. We thank you for those states who are bold enough to open up and say this is over. We pray that you would guide our leadership here in the state to do the same thing. We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Erdman. I recognize Senator Bostelman for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOSTELMAN:** Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Bostelman. I call to order the forty-first day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

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**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** No corrections this morning.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, sir. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** There are, Mr. President. A Potential Conflict of Interest Statement by Senator Bostelman. That will be on file in our office. In addition to that, a series of priority bill designation: LB579 by Senator Moser; LB320 by Senator John Cavanaugh; LB566 and LB488 by the Appropriations Committee; LB572 by the Agriculture Committee, as well as LB324; Senator Friesen, LB388 [SIC Senator Hilgers, LB388]; Senator Hilgers, LB18 [SIC Senator Stinner, LB18]; Senator Murman, LB390. And finally, Mr. President, your Committee on Banking, Commerce and Insurance reports LB20 to General File with committee amendments attached. That's all I have at this time.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, Senator Albrecht would like to recognize Dr. Hoelting of Pender, Nebraska, who is serving us today as family physician of the day. Dr. Hoelting is with us under the north balc-- balcony. Doctor, if you could please rise, we'd like to welcome you and thank you for being here today. We'll now proceed to the first item on the agenda, legislative confirmation reports. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, the first report from the Health and Human Services Committee, David Hansen to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board, Diane Schutt for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Joshua Sevier for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Arch, you are recognized to open on the confirmation report from the Health and Human Services Committee.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. The Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on February 25 on the reappointment of David Hansen to the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. Dr. Hansen has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, is a licensed psychologist in Nebraska. He's been at the faculty at UNL since 1992, where his research specifically relates to child maltreatment. Additionally, he serves as director of the law psychology program, director of Project SAFE, a clinical treatment program for sexually abused children and their families. Dr. Hansen's

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background and direct experience with families who are dealing with child maltreatment make him a very qualified-- make him very qualified to serve in this--

**FOLEY:** Excuse me, Senator. Excuse me. Members, if we could please hold the conversations down, we can hear the speaker. Thank you. Senator Arch.

**ARCH:** Thank you. Dr. Hansen's background and direct experience with families who are dealing with child maltreatment make him very qualified to serve in this voluntary board position. We are grateful for his time and dedication. Appreciate your support for Dr. Hansen's reappointment. Diane Schutt for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on February 25 on the reappointment of Diane Schutt to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Schutt is a retired high school teacher from Fairbury. She testified at her confirmation hearing that she was first diagnosed with hearing loss in her early 20s. During her first term on the commission, she was involved in legislation to require insurance coverage for hearing aids for young people. Going forward, she expressed a desire to, to address the shortage of sign language interpreters and to continue to help the commission serve the people of Nebraska. I appreciate Ms. Schutt's dedication, passion for serving the deaf and hard of hearing population in Nebraska, and I hope you'll vote favorably for her reappointment to the commission. Our last appointment this morning, Joshua Sevier, again for the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing on February 24 on the appointment of Dr. Joshua Sevier to the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Dr. Sevier is a new appointment and he's very qualified to fill the seat on the commission. He is a cochlear implant audiologist at UNL, also runs the program at the, at Children's Hospital in Omaha. At his confirmation hearing, Dr. Sevier testified he's been very involved in legislative affairs since he moved from Tennessee to Nebraska in 2016, including serving as the co-chair of the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Dr. Sevier spoke with great insight and passion about the deaf and hard of hearing community, especially as it relates to developing technology. His experience and expertise will be an asset to the commission, so I appreciate your support to his appointment. Thank you very much.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Arch. Is there any discussion of the confirmation report? I see none. Senator Arch, you're recognized to close on your confirmation report. He waives close and the question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the

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Health and Human Services Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 41 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** The confirmation report is adopted. Next report, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, Judiciary would report favorably on Rosalyn Cotton to the Board of Parole.

**FOLEY:** Senator Lathrop, you're recognized to open on your first of two confirmation reports.

**LATHROP:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, good morning. The Judiciary Committee held confirmation, a confirmation hearing on February 11, 2021, to consider the gubernatorial appointment of Rosalyn Cotton. Ms. Cotton is a reappointment to the Nebraska Board of Parole to serve a term from September 10, 2020, until September 10, 2026. Ms. Cotton appeared in person at the confirmation hearing. She has served on the Parole Board since 2005 and is the current chair. The committee voted 8-0 to advance this confirmation. And I would approve your-- I would appreciate your approval of the report. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Is there any discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Lathrop, you're recognized to close if you care to. He waives close and the question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Judiciary Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 41 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

**FOLEY:** The confirmation report is adopted. Next report, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Next report, also from Judiciary Committee, is three appointees to the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee.

**FOLEY:** Senator Lathrop, you're recognized again.

**LATHROP:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I'm going to do three of these Crime Victim's appointments and I'll share those one at a-- in order. The Judiciary Committee held a confirmation hearing on February 11, 2021, to consider the gubernatorial appointment of Jeffrey Davis. Mr. Davis is a reappointment to the Crime Victim's Reparation Committee to serve a term from July 17, 2020, until July 16, 2024. He serves as a representative from the Crime Commission on

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the committee. Mr. Davis is from Papillion and is currently the Sarpy County Sheriff. He appeared before the committee in person at the hearing and the committee voted 8-0 to advance his confirmation. We also, on the same day, considered the gubernatorial appointment of Shawn Eatherton. Mr. Eatherton is a reappointment to the Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparation Committee to serve a term from July 17, 2020, until July 16, 2024. He serves as a representative from the Crime Commission on the committee. Mr. Eatherton is from Kearney and is currently the Buffalo County attorney. He appeared before the Judiciary Committee in person at the hearing and the committee also voted 8-0 to advance his confirmation as well. And finally, the committee also met again on the same day to consider Ann Ames to the Crime Victim's Reparation Committee. Ms. Ames is a new appointment to the Nebraska Crime Victim's Reparation Committee to serve a term from December 18, 2020, until July 16, 2023. She serves as a public representative from a charitable organization on the committee. Ms. Ames is from Lincoln and is currently the Lancaster County administrator. She appeared before the Judiciary Committee in person at the hearing and again, the committee voted 8-0 to advance her confirmation. Each of these three candidates have been advanced from the committee on 8-0 votes and I would appreciate your approval of the report. Thank you, colleagues.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Is there any discussion on the report? I see none. Senator Lathrop waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report from the Judiciary Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 39 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** The confirmation report is adopted. Final report, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, the Agriculture Committee would report favorably on Tom Dinsdale to the Nebraska State Fair Board.

**FOLEY:** Senator Halloran, you're recognized to open on the confirmation report.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Nebraska. Good morning, colleagues. The Agriculture Committee recommends confirmation of the appointment of Tom Dinsdale to the Nebraska State Fair Board. Mr. Dinsdale would replace Jeremy Jensen as the host city representative on the 11-member Fair Board. He would be eligible to serve this and two additional three-year terms. Mr. Dinsdale is the

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owner of Dinsdale Automotive vehicle dealership in Grand Island. His past occupations include being an owner of a small trucking company and as a partner in the family livestock operation. Previous state appointments include serving as a member of the Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. He has also served on the boards of Fonner Park and Stuhr Museum and in 2020 was named to serve on the Nebraska Greats Foundation board. Recognitions and honors include the Grand Island Independent Man of the Year in 2010, National Society of Fundraising Executive Philanthropist of the Year, and the United Way Citizen of the Year. He is a graduate of Palmer High School, earned an associate degree at Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri, and attended the University of Nebraska. Mr. Dinsdale is already heavily invested in the fair, as a former member of the 1868 State Fair Foundation and as a sponsor of the beef barn facility on the Fonner Park campus. Mr. Dinsdale appeared before the committee on February 23 via teleconference and responded to the committee's questions. His qualifications to represent the Grand Island business community and his enthusiasm and investment in the fair was very apparent. The committee voted seven ayes and no dissenting votes to recommend confirmation of Mr. Dinsdale's appointment. I move the adoption of the Ag Committee report.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Halloran. Discussion of the report? Senator Pansing Brooks.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I wanted to stand up just a minute and we're going to get to Final Read. And I wanted to let Senator Clements talk about-- I have the Fort Donelson bill coming up, which I know you've all listened very carefully about the important work of the Nebraska regiment during the Civil War, but Senator Clements has a family member that was very active in the Civil War and I wanted him to tell that story momentarily. And I decided not to stop with an amendment on Final Read. So may I yield my time to Senator Clements?

**FOLEY:** Senator Clements, you've been yielded 4:20.

**CLEMENTS:** Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for this interruption. I had wanted to talk about the bill that Senator Pansing Brooks had recognizing the Nebraska resident-- regiment from the Civil War. Now, my great, great uncle was Isaac Clements. Actually, his name was Isaac Newton Clements. And he was not a member of that regiment, but he was a Civil War veteran and left us about a 16-page memoir of his Civil War experience. And he mentioned that he was able to parade honorably and proudly in front of President Lincoln in Washington, D.C. and he

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fought mostly in the Virginia area. He was wounded, shot in the leg, captured by the Confederates, and spent time in a Confederate hospital. He talked about this hospital building being two floors of Union soldiers who had been wounded and cots all along. And as he had been educated, had been a college student, was educated in cleanliness and he asked the orderlies to boil his bandages every day because he knew about disease somewhat. And there was-- the Confederates had hardly enough doctors to take care of their own soldiers, much less Union prisoners, so medical care was pretty bleak. Well, he talks about in his memoirs how he started off on the second floor. The second floor emptied out and he ended up down on the first floor because so many people had died, but he did survive by getting then exchanged in a prisoner exchange and heading back home when his family came to pick him up and he became a college professor. And his brother, John Clements, then came to Nebraska in 1868 after the Civil War and settled in Elmwood, Nebraska. His brother was not in the Civil War, but Isaac was and his brother named his son Byron Isaac in Isaac's name-- in honor and I'm just proud to be a descendant of the, of a Civil War veteran. And I just thanked, also thanked Senator Pansing Brooks for honoring the Nebraska regiment who played an important part in a Civil War battle and that we are, we have a bill. We did have a bill last year and we're going to improve that, that's going to honor that regiment and the accomplishments they did. And so I just thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to share. And if you read that memoir of Isaac, it was sleeping on the ground through the cold and having little to eat, the sacrifices some of the-- our ancestors have done is really humbling when you read it and what they went through to preserve freedom for all of us. So thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Aguilar.

**AGUILAR:** Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support also of Mr. Tom Dinsdale to the State Fair Board. Tom has been a fantastic asset to the community of Grand Island and Hall County and I'm sure he'll be ever much so the asset to the State Fair Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Aguilar. I see no further discussion on the confirmation report. Senator Halloran, you're recognized to close. He waives close. And the question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report of the Agriculture Committee. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 43 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

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**FOLEY:** The confirmation report is adopted. Members, we're now-- pursuant to the agenda, we're going to move to Final Reading. Pursuant to the rules, I'd ask all of you to please be at your desks for Final Reading. We'll now begin Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, LB1.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB1 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, there's a typo on your agenda. LB1 should have an E after it. There is an E clause on that bill. All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB1 be passed with the emergency clause included? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Senator McCollister, voting yes. Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB1 passes with the emergency clause attached. Next bill, LB4. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB4 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB4 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Groene, Bostar. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB4 passes. Next bill, LB21. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB21 on Final Reading]



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**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB21 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Aguilar and Bostar. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays-- Senator Aguilar, voting yes. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB21 passes. Proceeding now to LB23, Mr. Clerk. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 36 ayes, 7 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB23]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB23 pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. For the benefit of the new members, when we have a dispensement-- a suspension of the at-large reading, we are required to wait one minute. That's why there's the delay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Albrecht and Bostar. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

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**FOLEY:** LB23 passes with the emergency clause attached. Our next bill is LB25, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB25 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB25 pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senator Bostar. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB25 passes with the emergency clause attached. We'll now proceed to LB77, Mr. Clerk. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 34 ayes, 9 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB77]

**FOLEY:** All provision of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB77 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senator Bostar. The vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

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**FOLEY:** LB77 passes. Next bill is LB149. Mr. Clerk. The first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 34 ayes, 8 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB149]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB149 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, John Cavanaugh, Machaela Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Stinner and Bostar. Vote is 47 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB149 passes. Next bill is LB159. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB159 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provision of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB159 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, 0 are excused.

**FOLEY:** LB159 passes. Proceeding now to LB174. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of

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dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Vote is 31 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB174]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB174 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar-- excuse me, Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, none are excused, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB174 passes. Proceeding now to LB248. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB248 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB248 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senator Groene. Vote is 48 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, none excused, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB248 passes. Next bill is LB253. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB253 on Final Reading]

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**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB253 pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting nay: none. Not voting: Senators Brewer, Geist, and Morfeld. Vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting.

**FOLEY:** LB253 passes with the emergency clause attached. The next bill is LB363. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing with the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 33 ayes, 10 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB363]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB363 pass with the emergency clause attached? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays, none excused, Mr President.

**FOLEY:** LB363 passes with the emergency, with the emergency clause attached. Next bill is LB373. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB373 on Final Reading]

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**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB373 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Allbright, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays. All are, all are present, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB373 passes. Proceeding now to LB532. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. Those in favor of dispensing of the reading vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 33 ayes, 9 nays to dispense with the at-large reading.

**FOLEY:** The at-large reading has been dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, please read the title.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read title of LB532]

**FOLEY:** All provision of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB532 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Clements, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Halloran, Hansen, Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkeman, Hughes, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, Lowe, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Vote is 49 ayes, 0 nays on the passage of the bill, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB532 passes. Proceeding now to LB44. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, with respect to LB44, Senator Groene would move to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment is AM477.

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**FOLEY:** Senator Groene, you're recognized to open on your motion.

**GROENE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have discussed with Senator Hansen and Senator Wayne that this is not a dilatory action at all. This is not a filibuster. I have no complaints with Senator Hansen's bill, I've told him that. But it is a-- when you do bring an amendment, it has to be germane and his bill fits exactly the area in statute where my citizens and my community of North Platte have a concern with LB866 that passed last year. I, I guess I should have done it on General File and I should have done it on Select File, but as all of you know, the way we've been doing things this year, it's hard to keep up with all of the bills that are coming out of committee and they're moving fast, some of them, through the process. So I finally got my ducks in an order and was getting phone calls from my city manager in North Platte and city council people. It's just hit them that they are going to be required in July 1 to do a plant-- a study and report to the Urban Affairs Committee about their housing, their workforce housing, and its very detailed study. My-- there's seven communities that are affected that are between 50,000 and 20,000. They, quite frankly, were thrown under the bus. The League of Municipalities did not like LB866 last year. It went all the way down to first-class cities of 800 population, so they negotiated and under duress, they agreed to 20,000 and above. What's-- the just plain facts about this thing, the city, the first city under 20,000 is La Vista, the fastest-growing community in our state, the one who really should have been under this plan. Just because it's arbitrary 20,000, they don't. I'm very proud of La Vista for growing as fast as they are, but they're not in it. These communities from, it's from Kearney at 34,000 to Papillion at 20,475, normally don't have a individual hired to fill out plans. They have a planning commission. We have a county-wide one. That individual that they have hired has plans coming in, people zoning, they're preparing the zoning so that the planning commission can, can review them. They don't have time to write plans or the expertise to do it. My city administrator, I had a handout I gave you folks. It shows a map of a proposed plan in North Platte. It never came to fruition with the railroad laying people off and the economy, it never was done. But in that map, you will see that cities of North Platte's size already do this, already do this. In that plan was apartments, assisted living, trailer park, mobile home parks, duplexes, eightplexes. We have people who work there and we do make sure we try to have housing for them. We do not need to have a plan. In North Platte, if you read the email that's attached from my city planner, I got permission from him to give it to you, he blankly states that in the last paragraph: With regard to the study required by last year's LB866, the city

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anticipates consulting fees of \$35,000 to \$50,000 to complete a study meeting its statutory requirements. To put this into perspective, the city's current budget within the development department for contract services is \$50,000. And what do they do with that \$50,000? Exactly what this plan LB866 said. They apply for grants. They apply for Senator Williams' workforce housing grants. They have a plan called-- I got it upside down here, excuse me-- called "a shot in the arm." They use that, I think it was LB844, whatever that bill was. LB874 years ago and a local community could use their sales tax revenues with a vote of the people for economic development. They give a certain amount of money to developers to cover up-- upfront costs to build homes. That's what they do, our development department, \$50,000 budget. We already do this. I have no qualms about Lincoln and Omaha, Bellevue and Grand Island would be the four cities above, above 50,000. They're growing. I talked to the city manager at Grand Island, he said, we already did it. We have a person on, on-- hired who does plans, who keeps our comprehensive plan updated. Those smaller cities don't. This is added cost. Now you can tell me you negotiated with the league. My city had no idea this was coming at them until they were at a league meeting, were told they have to start. We did have a changeover of city managers in that time and a new mayor, so maybe that's why it was not. But anyway, I am just bringing this to you as a justice issue, a smaller community. Why do these seven communities point it out? Why? Besides Kearney, and maybe Fremont now with the, with the chicken plant, the rest of those cities have stagnant population. They are trying to survive. They're not building new developments, but yet we put another, another requirement on them to create a plan when all we're trying to do is survive. Economic development, it's not needed. It's one of those issues where what fits for Omaha and Lincoln and maybe Bellevue doesn't work for us. Just an added cost, added headache, more plans to put on a, put it in a binder and stick it on the shelf. We're trying to survive. So what I'm asking you is to, and I understand Senator Hansen and Senator Wayne, if they disagree. LB866 was a cooperative venture between them two last year. But in rural Nebraska, we are different. We are. Come out and visit North Platte. I'll drive you around town. There's an apartment building here and right next to it is nice houses. Over here is low, low-income housing, federal housing, a block away is middle-income housing. My microTIF is going to be used there because that fits us, that first fits us for workforce housing. A plan is meaningless. We're just begging people to build, period. Now, you're going to take our \$50,000 budget for development away from us to build a plan that sits in a binder on, on a-- instead of applying for grants for Senator Williams' workforce housing or federal housing grants. And I'm, you



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know, I, I've been approached by my city council members, my mayor, to do this, to ask for this. Could it wait for a bill next year? It will if I have to, but they already have to start reporting July 1. Now, some of you say, well, this isn't right. Read the rules. There's a reason why we have this ability to pull a bill back to Select and correct an injustice or to change something. Too sadly, most of the time it's done is for filibusterer reasons or dilatory reasons. But in this case, it is not. This case is to make sure my city of North Platte, with 23,000 people, is treated the same as La Vista with 17,300 people or Scottsbluff with 14,000 or South Sioux City with 13,000 people. They don't have to do it. But for some reason, we have a cost to a stagnant city trying to survive, has to do a plan that's really for somebody growing, communities that are growing. So give us a break. I did in the amendment say they may do it. They may. If they want to have a plan, they may do it. That also gives them bargaining chips. When they go out and talk to a consultant and say, what's your bid to do this? And we may do it if you're reasonable, versus you shall, and the consultant says you shall and this is my bid. If anybody is out there thinking this is something against Senator Hansen, Senator Hansen and I are getting along fine. We both got kicked out of a chair this year.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**GROENE:** Senator Wayne and I are getting along fine. This has nothing to do with personalities. This is about fairness and overbearing government, state government on local control. So I would appreciate your help to send this back to Select and then to adopt AM477. I'll answer any questions you wish. But by the way, that plan I passed out, that's not happening. What is happening, part of it, ten eightplexes will be built. You know who that is for? Lower to middle-income without a plan, because that's where the demand is in North Platte. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Matt Hansen.

**M. HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning again, colleagues. Colleagues, just to be very clear up front, I don't view this as a friendly amendment. I would encourage you to vote against it. Vote against the motion to return to Select File. I do appreciate Senator Groene has been very clear in his goal and his intent with me and I knew this was coming. That being said, for the stakes here, because I think there's been some confusion the whole time about LB44. LB44 is a one-sentence change that changes a procedural element of LB866 that everybody who worked on LB866 agreed upon. Frankly, it's a consent calendar bill, or at least was in my mind from the

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beginning. I did not expect much debate or much vehicle. That's all LB44 does. It does, however, open up, as Senator Groene mentioned, the bill we passed last year, LB866 that had three different components. Senate Groene is amending all three of those components, including the two my bill does not amend. So we're moving into different areas, we're opening up different sections and different statutes, chapters of statute here. So this is a pretty substantive change to a bill that was, by all intents and purposes, a-- intended to be a technical cleanup. As Senator Groene indicated, Senator Wayne and I did work extensively with the League of Municipalities on LB866. Both he and I had development bills that we were considering merging or prioritizing in some fashion that had wide support from developers, from other groups. Mine was a big popular one with the AARP and a whole host of others to allow for more varied types of housing. And one of the barriers we're finding with the varied types of housing is actually the municipalities in the sense that they will basically overregulate the zoning and prohibit different types of housing from coming into cities. The cities kind of challenged that assumption that, that many developers, many realtors will affirm. And so we came up with LB866, which is fine, you think you're doing a good job right now, you think you have plans right now, show them us. You have to have them written down, you have to show them to the Legislature. I appreciate Senator Groene, what he's doing for his community. Personally, if the only quote they've got for this report in July is, is \$50,000, they need to open that up for more bids because it is basically-- it should be stuff they have on hand. It's, it's the what percentage of your city is zoned what? You know, how many new houses have you built in the last year? How many new apartments have you built in the last year? It's this kind of status report of housing in the city. And so it is not intended, and I don't-- I never thought it would be a huge financial burden. In fact, it was something the League of Municipalities pitched saying it would be something cities could do pretty reasonably. And we even extended the timelines and tweaked it a little bit to give them more time to comply. I appreciate that maybe North Platte felt left out of the process. That might be an internal thing between them, the League of Municipalities. We worked on this bill with direct city planners, lobbyists, city attorneys from a whole host of cities and will I acknowledge maybe North Platte wasn't included, but that's what I presumed the League of Municipalities is for. That when they kind of sign off on a bill, it is the broad consensus of cities in the state of Nebraska. This bill was actually pitched by the cities to us. The final version, as I remember it, the-- was kind of new language combining Senator Wayne's bills and shifting them a little bit with this overall concept. So with that, won't go too much more. Not

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intending to hit my light again unless it's needed. But again, this is on Sel-- on Final Reading, it is attempting to take my bill, open up new sections, totally change different acts on a Final Reading amendment that didn't have a hearing and is kind of new subject matter. Just process, principle, I would encourage you to oppose LB-- sorry, oppose AM477 and let's vote LB44 across the finish line today. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Lowe.

**LOWE:** Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I stand in support of AM477 that will be added on to LB44. In Urban Affairs Committee, I've been pretty adamant about the affordable housing plans and not voting for them through my five, four and a half years that I've been here. You know, our contractors will, will see what they need, the people will demand what they need in their communities, and it's all very simple. We don't need government to tell us what we need to build, where we need to build them because we want our developments to be nice. We don't want them to be ragtag and, and offensive to somebody else driving through. We want our communities to be nice, but we don't need government to tell us how to do things. So I'm supporting AM477 to send it back and take a look at Senator Groene's amendment because our-- these communities, like Senator Groene said, are just trying to stay alive and it costs money for these housing plans to be developed. They don't have the money. So what do we do? We're forcing them to make these plans, to develop the plans, to hire somebody to do the plan, and now they're going to struggle for the gravel to put on their roads in the wintertime. Everything we do is going to cost these communities money, so we need to sit back, relax, and let things go as they are. So I'm standing to support AM477, which is going to be added on to LB44. Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Lowe. Senator Wayne.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I am in opposition to AM7-- 447-- or AM477. And I just want to give everybody a clear understanding of what, what happened, how we got here. More importantly, there was never a hearing on this amendment and this substantially changes a bill from last year. So we, at least the last four years I've been here, we've taken the position that if there's any substantive change to a bill, we have to have a hearing. That hasn't happened in this case. If Senator Groene wants to have a bill to remove 50,000 and below, we should have a hearing on it and we should have that within the committee that the jurisdiction is and not just do it on the floor. But more importantly, this was a two-year process and I want to explain that throughout this body, we

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have heard and we've actually funded rural workforce housing, middle-income housing last year. We've continued to talk about housing and affordable housing being one of the critical issues in this state, one of the top three issues in this state. So we had bills in front of Urban Affairs the last three years that said if you build affordable housing, we'll waive regulations. All the cities, including North Platte, everybody didn't like that idea because we took away local control. And they kept saying, we don't have a clear understanding of what the actual need for the state in Nebraska is around affordable housing. So we spent multiple meetings with the leagues and different cities negotiating LB866, which we just passed last August. Let me, let me-- we just passed this bill last August. And the negotiation ended on let's just get a count of where, where we're at. And what's so interesting about what Senator Groene is proposing is what he handed out is almost the exact same thing that is required in the plan. So they're already doing it. There's no additional cost. The actual plan that he is referring to that has to be created is not even due until 2024. But the report of what they're actually doing, if the city doesn't have already what they're actually doing for affordable housing, that's a bigger issue. But the fact that he handed out something that meets all the requirements means to me that North Platte has somebody there who already knows what type of housing they have. And the reason that report is coming to Urban Affairs, so we can better understand the actual needs. I think it's a great conversation when we talk about rural workforce housing and what that looks like if we actually knew the housing needs. We go across this state and we hear over and over that affordable housing is one of our biggest drivers. The reason some industries won't come to places is because they can't bring more people there because of affordable housing. But we as a body have no database. We as a body have no idea, not even a report from cities on what their affordable housing or their plan is. So all this is, and we passed it again less than a year ago, that says, hey, if you are this group of cities, and we left people who are 20,000 and below out, just tell us what you're doing and then you have four years to actually come up with a plan. And then maybe as a state, we just take the rural affordable housing, the middle-income housing, and maybe we fund it, but how do we know that if we don't even know the baseline of what the communities are doing? And so to exempt North Platte because now they have a new mayor and they don't want to do it, my-- we'll be here every day on bills and we'll just keep dropping amendments on Final Reading because there's always a constituent somewhere who doesn't like an idea. But as a state, as state senators, we honestly cannot answer the question of what affordable housing in Nebraska looks like.

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**FOLEY:** One minute.

**WAYNE:** But in this year's budget, we have roughly \$15 to \$20 million dealing with affordable housing for rural and urban. But we really don't have an idea. We know it's there. So that's all this report is saying. Just provide us with what you're currently doing. That should not cost the city a dime if they have a city planning department or even a city manager who says, hey, we have some duplexes on Main Street, we have some apartments on this street, we probably need some more single-family home. If you look at the report in the actual section of law, it is not that complicated. And again, what Senator Groene actually handed out almost meets the entire definition of the report that we're asking for, so there shouldn't be any additional cost. I would ask you to vote nay, red on AM477. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Groene.

**GROENE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wayne, that map I handed out was created and paid for by a private developer who brought a plan to the city that the city development corporation was trying to pass. It was not done by the city, so there is no plan in place. That report is more detailed, it's not simple. It's simple for Omaha and Lincoln, maybe Bellevue and Grand Island, because they have a person on staff who, who complies with this stuff, but you have to have in this plan-- where is it? It's pretty detailed. An overall view of the city's current residential zoning requirements, the percentage of area in the city zoned for residential use permits, a breakdown of new residential construction in the city over the previous five years, a breakdown of residential units annexed by the city over the previous five years, an estimate at the per-unit cost of housing in the city, whether such zoning codes, ordinances, and regulation provided, whether such zoning codes, ordinance, and regulations allow for construction of accessory dwelling units, what incentives the city applies to encourage development. It goes on and on. And that is not a simple report that you're asking a smaller city to do by July 1 of this year. And by the way, if this gets back on Select, if the, the Speaker says after the amendment, the rule said after the amendment is adopted, the Speaker can say, this is too extensive, it needs a hearing, and sends it back to the committee for a hearing. Not before the amendment is adopted. If you can read, read the rules. This is just common sense, folks. We are creating big government here, forcing small communities to do things and just arbitrarily picking seven communities. Senator Hansen is correct. We-- I could have left it out, but I thought it was unfair in LB866 that of the

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top four cities, Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Grand Island-- no, Bellevue. Of the three, Grand Island did not, only three of them qualified for the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act because the statute says you have to be in a county of 100,000. Bellevue is at 53,000 people. Grand isn't, Grand Island isn't. They're sitting out there with 50,000 to 60,000 residents. They have to do the plan, but they don't qualify for the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act. That was just a little cleanup thought I thought was necessary. You want to take that out? Fine. I called the city planner at Grand Island. He said we have somebody on staff. He just-- he'd been working on this, incorporated it into our comprehensive plan. North Platte doesn't. I don't think Kearney does. Most of these cities don't. What is-- I-- our public employees work. Their hands are full. The planning director in North Platte doesn't sit around waiting for another plan to come by that they have to do. They are very busy planning and setting up the zoning meetings. They handle the zoning meetings for the whole county and the planning commission. To create a plan set on the shelf and gather dust because we're just trying to survive. This does not harm the bill. I'm not trying to attack somebody's work or somebody's personal pride and who created the bill, who wrote it in, in the Urban Affairs office. This, I'm trying to do something for my city. I will tell you all, you rural, if you're rural-- we're getting less of us, that have a district that doesn't have a city of 20,000, your people were mad.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**GROENE:** They came in to the, to the meetings and said, we can't do this for a town of 900, 1,000, 1,500 people. So guess what? Under duress, they arbitrarily hit a-- struck a 20,000 people, and we got hung with a very expensive plan of things, as Senator Wayne said, we're already, we're already contemplating. We need people to be able to live places. We don't need the government telling us where to live and where to tell them to live. That's what this plan does. I'm just trying to fix something that needs to be fixed before July 1. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Erdman to be followed by Senators Wayne, Vargas, and Groene. Senator Erdman.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Good morning again. So I was trying to listen as well as I could to Senator Hansen's remarks. I did hear him say this is an unfriendly amendment and the rest of it was kind of-- whatever he said, I didn't get it. So I hear what Senator Wayne stands up and says we shouldn't bring amendments to a bill on Final Reading or bring it back to Select. That happens all

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the time. It's a provision that's available to us in the rules and I don't think Senator Groene has stepped outside of that. I will support bringing it back to Select and AM477. So by default, because I can understand him better, I'm going to ask Senator Wayne if he'd answer a few questions.

**FOLEY:** Senator Wayne, would you yield, please?

**WAYNE:** Yes.

**ERDMAN:** Senator Wayne, thank you so much. And I appreciate the fact that I can hear you and what you say. So tell me, if a city doesn't do this, what are the ramifications? What's the penalty?

**WAYNE:** Nothing.

**ERDMAN:** OK, so if they don't make the plans that they need to make, then will this bill allow them to have mixed housing in certain areas where they don't want it?

**WAYNE:** No, if they don't-- if they don't comply with the, with the whole 20-- by 2024, there's like a default requirement. But no, they, the city-- this doesn't change anything locally and what they want to do.

**ERDMAN:** So then why would a city want to do this if there's no ramifications or reper--

**WAYNE:** Well, the idea is for us to the report and I'm talking specifically about the report, the report is for us, for us as a body to figure out affordable housing across the state. We've heard it every year we've been here, Senator, that affordable housing is a big issue, housing in general.

**ERDMAN:** OK.

**WAYNE:** But, but we don't know what that means.

**ERDMAN:** So, so if they don't report it, they're not required to report it, how much value is there in your report that you do get?

**WAYNE:** Well, we, we req-- we put it in there to require, but there's no penalty if they don't on the report. But it also means that we're-- we shouldn't support any funding to go to rural workforce housing if we don't know where rural housing is needed--

**ERDMAN:** OK.

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**WAYNE:** --like we, we just shoot in the dark.

**ERDMAN:** So there, there very well may be a penalty and that is you don't get any funding for workforce housing.

**WAYNE:** Well, that's just a-- we can make a decision as we go. We're just trying to get a baseline. And again, I think you hear the same thing in your community that we hear across the state about housing. And we just don't know, we don't know what that means until we start seeing what actual cities are doing with their housing.

**ERDMAN:** So how much of a problem is that for amending LB44 by using Senator Groene's amendment?

**WAYNE:** So the issue, the real issue with Senator Groene's amendment is we never had a hearing on the bill.

**ERDMAN:** [INAUDIBLE]

**WAYNE:** So all the other cities don't get a chance to weigh in on it.

**ERDMAN:** OK, so--

**WAYNE:** So that's the big problem.

**ERDMAN:** If we had a hearing and those communities between 20,000 and 50,000 had an opportunity to come back in and testify and they testified that Senator Groene is a good amendment and we should adopt that, would you be in agreement with that?

**WAYNE:** If next year he brings a bill. What he-- what we can't do right now is take this bill and take it back to the committee and have a hearing. There's a motion for that. It's called motion to recommit. That's not what this bill is. This is trying to add something here. Now, there is no bill in my committee right now that anybody will gut to allow this amendment to go, to go on a hearing. So we don't have a hearing. That's, that is one of our big things is we have hearings.

**ERDMAN:** So--

**WAYNE:** That's why I'm surprised you would support this.

**ERDMAN:** So perhaps I should get my little yellow pad out or Senator Groene should and make a motion to recommit the committee then?



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**WAYNE:** You could make that motion. That doesn't mean that we would add this amendment to the hearing. I mean, we would, we would kick it out any differently. I mean, there's a lot of factors. That's why you bring your own bill every year.

**ERDMAN:** I understand. I understand that. But it looks to me like what Senator Groene is trying to do is a commonsense approach to allowing those cities between 20,000 and 50,000 to be in control of what they do in their cities.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**ERDMAN:** And I don't see how that can be a problem for you.

**WAYNE:** But we're not, we're not, we're not eliminating their control. That's why I don't understand the argument because we're not eliminating their control. We're saying tell us what, what you've already done.

**ERDMAN:** But you're requiring them to do something they wouldn't have to do if Senator Groene's amendment passes.

**WAYNE:** No. They-- I mean, they can still do it if they wanted to do it, but then when it comes to funding, they might be left out. I don't want that to happen in North Platte either.

**ERDMAN:** I think a better description is they will be left out, not might be. Would that--

**WAYNE:** Well, I don't know. That's up to the body. I mean, that's just how the body works. We're going to vote on it. But don't you think we should know what's going on in the communities if affordable housing is the biggest issue we have?

**ERDMAN:** That is, that's up to the committee to figure out what the-- how to figure those reports out. But I'm just telling you what Senator Groene is bringing to us today is information from his city saying that this is a burden for them and those cities between 20,000 and 50,000 have the same problem.

**WAYNE:** And Senator Groene can bring a bill next year and my committee will fully hear that bill.

**FOLEY:** That's time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Erdman and Senator Wayne. Senator Wayne, you're next in the queue.

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**WAYNE:** Thank you. And colleagues I, I do want you to understand that I understand-- me and Senator Groene have, Senator Groene and I have talked about this amendment for a while. The fundamental issue is this is a substantive change that would require a hearing. That's one of the fundamental issues that we, we have to, I think, as a body we should uphold. I mean, otherwise, anybody can just make the ten-day bill requirement is no longer a requirement. We can just do what we want and amend things on the floor without a, without a bill. That's a dangerous precedent we're about to set. The second thing is this was a two-year process in which we negotiated. The League of Municipalities has had webinars that they sent out to all the cities that fall underneath the act we passed to explain to them how to do it themselves. There is-- to hire a consultant is just beyond my belief of why they're doing that. There is no consultant needed. The statute clearly outlines things they are already doing. Just tell us what you've done. I don't think that's burdensome. And to hire a consultant for \$50,000, I mean, I need to put in a bid for that, Senator Groene, because I'll do it for \$45,000, it will take me a half a day. Like that's literally how easy this report is. It's tell us about your housing. But on a fundamental issue, as a body, we have to decide if we're going to stop-- if we're going to start allowing substantive changes without hearings to go forward in this body because there are a lot of bills that I really want to change that are substantive, that will probably change the entire bill. And we are, we are going to open up ourselves to a weird situation this year if we start allowing that to happen. And every committee chair, every committee chair should be against this amendment for that reason alone. Then your committee, your committee hearings are no longer valid. It's a substantive change. This was a negotiated process for over two years and I just don't understand this simple report is one I don't understand, but two, what's the point of negotiating with all the parties if they change mayors and now they want to change what they negotiated with this body? I mean, that means every election we're just going to keep rechanging what we've already done from the previous year and we'll never have consistency to figure out what we're doing. So I encourage you to vote red on the amendment. Senator Groene can bring a bill next year. We can negotiate it, we can figure out how it works, and we can, we can hammer it out. But again, this wasn't a willy-nilly bill that we put together. It literally was over a two-year process. And last year, quite honestly, if we didn't have the COVID break, probably wouldn't have got done, but it was over that break and over all of it we sat down and negotiated with the league and different cities who were engaged-- and I don't believe North Platte was not engaged-- and came up with the language we came up with. So I hope that we all honor our agreements that we negotiate

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with and I hope we don't start a dangerous path of introducing bills without actually introducing bills, but rather doing floor amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Vargas.

**VARGAS:** Thank you very much, President. Colleagues, I rise in opposition to AM477. A lot of things have already been said. The only things that I want to talk on are on the substance, the substance of the amendment itself. I know it's been communicated that this is a small change, sort of a technical correction, and some of this part of the language lowering the eligibility threshold to counties more than 50,000. Senator Wayne has touched upon this, but I'm also touching upon it because it, it actually is touching upon a bill that we passed last year, a bill of mine included in another package, the workforce-- middle income workforce housing, which is really focused on urban, urban city centers that are qualified census tracts. And, and the reason we did this, this was largely modeled off of Senator Williams' bill, rural workforce housing, that has been a successful program as well, and that was really focused on rural areas. And so with this intent, we really wanted to make sure that there was a rural workforce that already existed and was working and also a more, a more focused, qualified census tract in urban areas through the bill that I passed. And as a result, it sort of covers the need for implementing more workforce housing opportunities across our state, which is necessary and needed. We've seen the data, we know that. As a result of changing, making this change, although it seems somewhat innocuous or subtle, it actually does a sort of an inappropriate attempt because it would allow and sort of a double-dipping in certain areas and that double-dipping is not the intent of either legislation. And so, and I think that would warrant another hearing. But I wanted to make that really clear. I'm asking you not to support that because it would change the focus of the bill and actually allow an entity to use both of them, which, as you can imagine, is a bit of a conflict if one is rural and one is really more meant for urban and a sort of focused area. And so please do not support AM477. LB44 is still a good bill. Housing is needed, plans are needed to make good decisions. I don't think I have to really sell you on that and I hope we can pass that as well. Thank you very much.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Groene, you're recognized for your third opportunity.

**GROENE:** Thank you for this debate. Senator Vargas, I'm amazed you wouldn't want Grand Island to qualify with the meatpacking plant there and what they just went through in the workforce they have.

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Then you don't think Grand Island is a-- cause that, taking it to 50,000 on a county, it affects Grand Island only. It puts them in there with Bellevue, Lincoln, and Omaha. You don't believe Grand Island should-- has the problems that you're talking about workforce housing? That virus spread to communities because three and four generations were living in one house in Grand Island and it spread to the elderly, COVID did. All I'm trying to do is look after Grand Island so that they could gain the benefits of your workforce housing. As to Senator Wayne's comment, answer to Senator Erdman, that's, it's a little more restrictive. There's a pretty hard penalty if you don't do this plan. If you don't do this plan, Any city which fails to adopt an affordable housing action plan as required under subsection (1), shall allow the development of: Middle housing in all areas of the city zoned for residential use that allow for the development of a detached single-family dwellings; and a duplex of each lot or parcel zoned for residential use that allows for the development of detached single-family dwellings. (3) [SIC] A city shall amend any building zoning ordinance or require regulations as needed to comply with subsection of this section. Nothing [INAUDIBLE] missing plan. Well, that's what they have to do. They just have to let things be built wherever they want if they don't come up with a plan. The penalty is very substantial. As to Senator Wayne and to that this odd event that Senator Groene is doing, there's a rule that applies to this. So it must have not been that odd in the past. On page 40 of our Rulebook, Rule 6 (g) says, In the event a bill has become substantially a new and different bill by reason of amendments after they have been-- after they have been adopted, the Speaker may refer the bill to the Reference Committee, who must refer the, the said bill to the proper committee for a public hearing. There is a, there is a process in place if we adopt this amendment. It's not odd. Some may say, call I'm odd, but what I am doing today is not odd. Providing-- provided, that a majority of the elected members may overrule the decision of the Speaker. There is a process. And there is a substantial penalty, Senator Erdman, if they do not come up with a plan. It's not just reporting what you've done. You have to tell your developers who want a build that you have to do certain things in an area and it's hard enough to get them the build now. We're bribing them to build anything in North Platte and now you're going to put more regulations on them. We are not Omaha. We are not growing like Douglas and Sarpy County and Lancaster, where you have 160 acres developed and maybe, yes, then you decide you better need some middle-income housing in there. That isn't happening in these seven communities, maybe Kearney. This is rational, decent amendment to help rural Nebraska avoid a burden. It's not personal. The league threw these seven towns under the bus because the majority in every

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city above 800 would have had to do it. To save them, seven communities became victims of a plan. I have said I do not disagree with Senator Hansen's bill. It's reasonable, it says you can do a separate plan instead of delving into the entire comprehensive plan that you have as a city. Nothing wrong with that. It was the only vehicle I could see to address this problem.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**GROENE:** That's now. The problem is now. Did you say one minute?

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**GROENE:** The problem we have now in North Platte, we're going to get a, have a bill. We're going to have to take manpower to do this when we're, when we're out there instead trying to build a rail park, trying to do microTIF, trying to entice people to come to our community. Meanwhile, our workforce in our city office is over here doing this. That is meaningless. It's meaningless. It's a plan that will draw dust in a binder sitting on a shelf. Now we think we did something, but we did nothing. We just increased regulations, bigger government. Senator Wayne says we should know what they're doing in that community. I thought we believed in local control. It's not our concern. It's not my concern what Kearney does. It's not my concern what Omaha does. My--

**FOLEY:** That's time. Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Matt Hansen.

**M. HANSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning again, colleagues. Colleagues, since we're just rehashing LB866 right now, I want to be very clear, the plan that everybody's complaining about right now was the compromise. The plan was not in the original version of LB866, the plan was not in the original version of LB794, which was my bill, and was not in Senator Vargas's bill. This was the thing the cities asked us to do instead of the meat of our bills. And we took some of the definitions from our bills, combined them together, worked with the cities, and got it across the finish line. If the city of North Platte is upset at the League of Municipalities, they should bring it up at a League of Municipalities board meeting. This is a fundamentally different change to something a number of our senators worked on, as Senator Wayne said, for multiple years. And it's just being slapdash, thrown up on Final Reading. Senator Groene is talking about Grand Island being eligible under the Middle Income Workforce Housing Act. Every-- he must not have listened to Senator Vargas's speech, because as Senator Vargas pointed out, every city is eligible for either the rural or the middle income. That was the

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point because we didn't want to expand the rural, so we created the new middle income. This would allow a double-dipping for some cities to implement both plans, which frankly, I'm not necessarily that opposed to, but that's a pretty substantive change to a bill that I-- a section of statute that I am not amending in my bill. I've got a tiny little thing in the city statutes and Senator Groene is trying to mess around with, I think, Chapter 81, some of the banking statutes. This is a multiple provisions, changing multiple things on a bill of mine that was fundamentally a one-line cleanup that had we caught it last year, we would have thrown into LB866 and it would have, nobody would have paid any notice to it. This is a courtesy I was doing to the cities of Lincoln and cities of Omaha with LB44. It is not a substantive change to the deal last year and everybody involved with the deal last year agreed to it. There is a mood and a desire to have more housing of more types. I had a bill that would deregulate zoning. It would be more expansive and more available to developers and the cities really didn't like it because it took away local control. I understand that. I got that. I will say there was an appetite and a desire to just kind of steamroll the cities and maybe a path to do so, but I didn't necessarily think that was good public policy. I wanted to work with the cities and make sure we had a consensus plan that people would agree to and I thought we got there with LB866. I understand that LB866 had at some detractors the whole time, I understand you can't please everyone, but this is using my bill on a hostile amendment to crack open multiple sections and multiple chapters of statute after the fact, ignoring the kind of the, I think, frankly, bad principle to bring it on Final Reading. I agree it's not against the rules, but I mean, it's kind of against what you would normally do. So with that, colleagues, this is not something we should move forward with today. This changes a variety of different things when they haven't even been into effect, you know, for a full year yet without a public hearing, against the wishes of the bill introducer. So that's just the stakes we're at. We're going to have an opportunity, I think, to vote here fairly soon and I would encourage your red vote against the motion to return to Select File. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen. Senator Groene, you're recognized to close on your motion to return the bill.

**GROENE:** I appreciate the spirited debate and you understand the situation. It's really a debate on do you want things to just go through like a Sunday sermon and everybody shakes hands and goes home or do we want to have spirited debate and follow the rules when, when an issue comes up? I found it curious Senator Hansen said this is

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something I brought for Lincoln and Omaha because they had a concern, LB44. That's exactly what I'm doing for North Platte. They have a concern. I would appreciate to recommit to Select File or whatever, send it back to Select File and then support AM477. I understand. I'd like to see the kind of support that's out there if I bring a bill next year, my last year. But that report is due July 1 of this year, the first one. And if we could avoid that, it would be good for these seven cities so they can focus on what they need to be focusing on: growth. Growth, jobs, applying for grants and things that we've created here. Senator Wayne said it, we've done a lot since I've been here on workforce housing. Let them focus on that, not on planning your Christmas list that may not come or exist or to discourage developers because there's added cost of certain type of housing where they want to build ten houses and they got to build something else in order to get the, the plan adjusted. So anyway, I would appreciate vote green to return to Select File. And we'll live with what happens, but it was a spirited debate and I represent my constituents. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Groene. Members, we are on Final Reading, please be at your desks. The question before the body is whether or not to adopt the motion to return the bill to Select File for, for a specific amendment. Those in favor of the motion to return the bill to Select vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 21 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return.

**FOLEY:** The motion to return is not successful. So we're back on LB44. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** [Read LB44 on Final Reading]

**FOLEY:** All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is shall LB44 pass? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Voting aye: Senators Aguilar, Arch, Blood, Bostar, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Day, DeBoer, Dorn, Flood, Geist, Gragert, Groene, Matt Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hunt, Kolterman, Lathrop, Lindstrom, Linehan, McCollister, McDonnell, McKinney, Morfeld, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Pansing Brooks, Slama, Stinner, Vargas, Walz, Wayne, Williams, and Wishart. Voting no: Senators Albrecht, Clements, Erdman, Lowe, and Sanders. Not voting:

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Senators Friesen, Halloran, Ben Hansen, and Hughes. Vote is 40 ayes, 5 nays, 3 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** LB44 passes. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following bills: LB1, LB4, LB21, LB23, LB25, LB77, LB149, LB159, LB174, LB248, LB253, LB363, LB373, LB532, and LB44. That will now take us on the agenda to General File 2021 priority bills. Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, LB322, introduced by Senator Matt Williams, is a bill for an act relating to schools; to amend the section 79-2,144; to adopt the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act; to harmonize provisions; to repeal original sections. The bill was introduced on January 13 of this year, referred to the Education Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File with committee amendments.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Williams, you're recognized to open on LB322.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. Today, I'm, I'm pleased to introduce my priority bill for this year, LB322. I would like to, first of all, thank the Education Committee for advancing this bill unanimously. LB322 was brought to me by the education associations, both the large schools, small schools, and medium schools, and is supported by the Department of Education. LB322 will be amended by a white-copy amendment, AM464, and it creates the School Safety and Security Reporting System. So that we don't get confused from the green copy to the white-copy amendment, there are a few technical changes in the white-copy amendment. I will stop here and allow the committee amendment to be introduced and then I will go on and describe the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Williams. As the Clerk indicated, there are amendments from the Education Committee. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

**WALZ:** Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As Senator Williams said AM464 is a white-copy amend-- amendment that replaces the bill and at this time, I will yield my time to Senator Williams so he can explain the amendment. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, you've been yielded 9:50.



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**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Senator Walz, and thank you all for your attention on my priority bill. AM464, as I mentioned, creates the School Safety and Security Reporting System. Under this legislation, the Department of Education will establish an anonymous reporting system that enables students, parents, school personnel, and community members to report concerning behavior of possible harm, utilizing a report line that is accessible through telephone, a mobile app, a Web site, or email. The reporting system, which will be available but is not required of any school, will support both public and private K-12 schools and their threat assessment teams that are currently being trained by the Nebraska Department of Education School Safety Program. These threat assessment teams will include at least five school members who have completed training provided free of cost by the Department of Education. And I would point out that the training is a two-day training system, so there is a pretty intensive training component of this. Many schools, both large and small, have already established these teams and they are presently being trained. The intent of this entire program is to reduce the risk or prevent incidents of targeted violence and including harm to self, harm to others, or harm to school property. National statistics show that most school incidents, in fact, over 80 percent of violent school incidents, someone has leaked the information prior to the actual incident. Safe 2 Help Nebraska will give Nebraska schools a tool to receive that information and safely help someone before a tragedy occurs. One of the witnesses, Mark Adler, who is the superintendent of schools at Ralston, testified concerning the suicide of his 16-year-old son. It was compelling testimony and pointed out that at least seven of his friends knew in advance of the concern of his potential suicide. I'm convinced that if this report line had been in place, we could have prevented that. LB322 is modeled after a pilot program conducted in schools in Douglas County, Nebraska, called Safe 2 Help Nebraska, which was funded through a federal grant. Under the pilot program, local assessment teams were established in each of the Douglas County schools. These teams were trained by the Nebraska Department of Education. In addition, an anonymous report line was instituted at Boys Town and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by professionals trained to receive concerns, use de-escalation techniques, and alert appropriate school threat assessment teams for review, assessment, and action to protect people and property. The system was equipped to disseminate information received to the threat assessment teams in the school that could be impacted by the information provided. The pilot program began shortly following the pandemic last year and a total of 470 reports were logged. Information received ranged from suicide threats, drug use or misuse, bullying and cyberbullying,

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depression and other mental health-related issues, and threats against property. Twelve percent of the calls were from elementary schools, 49 percent from middle schools, and 39 percent from high schools. The Nebraska Safety and Security Reporting System proposed in LB322 is similar to programs created in several states, the prototype for which has been the Safe2Tell initiative in Colorado that was created following the Columbine shooting. However, there is an important difference and distinction between LB322 and programs in other states. Under LB322, the information provided through the anonymous report line goes to those trained in crisis management rather than directly to law enforcement. Nebraska's pilot program is recognized as the preferred national model because it works to de-escalate the crisis and utilizes the least restrictive methods to ensure safety while minimizing law enforcement interaction. In fact, the pilot program diverted 81 percent of contacts made as a result of the reports away from any type of law enforcement. Mental health issues have been on the rise across our country. Suicides among young people aged 10 through 24 rose 57 percent in the last ten years and has drastically increased during the pandemic. An anonymous reporting system has proved to reduce the risk and incidence of suicide. When it comes to keeping kids safe, there's no such thing as having too many helpful resources and this pilot program has been a life-saving partnership. Permanently adopting the pilot program and extending it statewide to schools that want to use it, both public and private schools will be providing a re-- a valuable resource for our local threat assessment teams. I want to take a minute and address the fiscal note. You will notice that there is a fiscal note. It amounts to nearly \$900,000. That is not a small amount, but when we think of the good that can come out of this, I think it's an amount that we can swallow. In our schools right now, we have across the state 400,000 students and teachers, that's 20 percent of the population of our state with students and teachers. The cost of this program ends up amounting to just slightly over \$2 per student. That's less than a gallon of gas, less than a gallon of milk, less than one lunch at the school on a daily basis. The cost is primarily made up of people. It takes ten FTEs to man a report line on a 24/7, 365 basis. That's significant. You know, for me, it's easy to talk about dollars and cents, c-e-n-t-s. With this bill, I would prefer to talk about dollars and sense, s-e-n-s-e. That it makes sense, it makes good sense to all of us. I was pleased at the testifiers that came to testify in support of this. Of course, that testimony was led by the Department of Education, the Nebraska School Counsel Association [SIC], the Nebraska State Education Association, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, Schools Taking Action for Nebraska Children, the STANCE

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group, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, representatives from Boys Town, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Nebraska Catholic Conference, Omaha Police Department, the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska, and school administrators from Ralston and Millard. There was no opposition testimony. Again, I would like to thank the Education Committee. As many of you know, I had an opportunity a number of years ago to spend a fairly significant time in Washington, D.C. The friends that my wife and I made while we were there were sending their kids to private school. And when I asked them, why do you send your kids to private school, there were two primary reasons. The first one was the quality of school. The second one was we don't feel our kids might be safe in our schools. I come back to Nebraska and I am very, very proud of our public school system and our private schools that serve their purpose also.

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**WILLIAMS:** Our kids get high-quality education and they're generally safe in schools. And I think it's our responsibility to take it another step and provide additional safety. I would remind everyone as we move forward, I would be pleased to answer any questions about LB322. Again, this was voted out of the Education Committee unanimously and there was no opposition testimony. I'm asking for your support for the Education Committee amendment and the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Williams. Debate is now open on LB322 and the pending Education Committee amendment. Senator Pansing Brooks.

**PANSING BROOKS:** Great. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I wholeheartedly stand in support of AM464. I want to thank Senator Williams for his work on this amendment. I think that it's made it really strong and it's going to help protect the kids of Nebraska. He's worked on, on changing some of the language from "threat assessment" to "crisis intervention" and "concerning behavior." This is all about protecting our kids. When you hear about the stories, it's, you know, they, they've had over 60 kids that were suicidal that they've been able to assess and treat and help, so it's really important. With that change in language, it made it so that people understand this isn't just another arm of the juvenile justice system, but instead it is in hopes of helping kids with their mental health problems and also making the schools safe and thereby putting a big barrier in that school-to-prison pipeline. So I really want to thank Senator Williams for being-- addressing a few of my concerns.

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And I hope we wholeheartedly and unanimously support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator Arch to be followed by Senators Walz, Erdman, and Dorn. Senator Arch.

**ARCH:** Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of this bill. I recall that it was in 2018 that I first started a conversation when I was employed full-time at Boys Town because this was, this was a concept in 2018 and on how to, how to provide a vehicle for kids to, to report concerns. And, you know, the question is asked of course can, can they now report? And the answer is yes. They can go to a teacher. They can, they can, they can go to-- if there's a, there's an officer in the hall, if whatever. But the anonymity of being able to report as, as well as the means of reporting, Web site, phone app, the things that kids are using, it, it struck me as a, as a good idea. So I watched the pilot project that then, that then started in Douglas County and my conclusion is I, I do support this. I think it is, I think it's appropriate way for-- a vehicle for the youth to report on these concerns, so thank you very much.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Arch. Senator Walz.

**WALZ:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in strong support of AM464 and LB322. You know, as part of our educational goal, safety and-- safety for teachers and students is really a top priority. I would like to thank Senator Williams for bringing this important piece of legislation that will aid in the identification and prevention of crisis situations in our school. Equally important, it makes it possible for us to then provide the necessary wraparound services and supports to kids who might not otherwise get the help that they need. It is clear that Senator Williams was thoughtful and intentional when he worked on this piece of legislation, as well as working with, you know, many of the education groups, first responders and medical groups and other senators, so he could fully understand the impact it can make on students and families. Again, I thank you for your work on this, Senator Williams, and I am confident that it is a bill that will save lives and keep our students and schools safe. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Walz. Senator Erdman.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. As I look this over and I begin to think about this, the fiscal note is General Fund, \$900,000. So I was wondering if Senator Williams would answer a question or two.

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**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, I would.

**ERDMAN:** Senator Williams, is there an estimate or an idea how many calls would be made to this hotline or what they do now?

**WILLIAMS:** During the pilot program that was conducted for a year's period of time with all of the Douglas County schools, there were 470 calls. It is estimated, I think, Senator Erdman, that there would be in excess of 1,000 calls, something like that, on an annual basis.

**ERDMAN:** OK.

**WILLIAMS:** Again, it would depend on the participation.

**ERDMAN:** All right. So I'm not an actuarial like Senator Clements, but I think I can do the math. That's, if you have 1,000 calls, that's \$900 a call. Would that be correct?

**WILLIAMS:** If that's your math, yes.

**ERDMAN:** OK. So currently, what do they do now? What does one do now when they have an issue and they need to call someone?

**WILLIAMS:** Right now we have tip line calls that are available in certain school systems that are operating those today, that those schools are paying for. The problem with those, as evident-- as in my comments, was those go directly to law enforcement. So most schools have a threat assessment team that has some training that is there, but they don't have a formal system and a particularly an anonymous system of reporting where that report line is going to a trained professional to hopefully de-escalate the situation.

**ERDMAN:** OK, so in, in the testimony, I seen that the Boys Town, Boys Town came in and they have a national Boys Town hotline. Did they describe what they do?

**WILLIAMS:** They were the company that was contracted with through the federal grant to operate the pilot program, so, yes, they testified about what they do with those calls. And again, they are-- we are estimating ten FTEs is what the fiscal note suggests that would be there. And again, those, those aren't just phone-answering people, those are people that are, are qualified mental health practitioner-type people to handle those kind of calls.

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**ERDMAN:** So would it be possible for us to contract with Boys Town hotline to, to accomplish what we're trying to ask here?

**WILLIAMS:** That's what is contemplated with LB322. Under LB322, the Department of Education can contract with a provider and right now it, it looks like that would be Boys Town.

**ERDMAN:** OK, so it's \$900,000 out of the General Fund. Wouldn't it be appropriate that the Department of Education has significant money, especially now with the COVID CARES Act money, that they fund this instead of taking it out of the General Fund?

**WILLIAMS:** You are exactly right on that, Senator Erdman. I have had numerous conversations. I'm very sensitive to this fiscal note because it's a significant number. Matt Blomstedt, the Commissioner of Education, is looking for sources that he could fund this with. He is fully on board backing this program. As I think we all know here, there is substantial money potentially coming with the CARES Act money that could come and I am working diligently with him. I have also talked, of course, to Senator Stinner, Chairman of Appropriations--

**ERDMAN:** OK.

**WILLIAMS:** --about other avenues.

**ERDMAN:** All right. Thank you. Thanks for answering the questions. I have, I'll follow up with this, this final comment. What we have been doing is we're adding to the pace--

**FOLEY:** One minute.

**ERDMAN:** --of our spending because we have all of the CARES Act money and all the revenue that we have today. And so we're, we're adding to the base and then we move forward a year or two and when the economy changes and we have no more CARES money, then we've established a base that we may not be able to fund. And a very similar thing happened in Kansas back in '08 or '09 when the recession happened. They got stimulus money and they added that to the base of education. And then when the stimulus money ran out a couple of years later, then they dropped back to the funding that education had prior to the stimulus money and everybody claimed that the governor cut funding to education, when in fact, all he did was fund education to the degree that it was funded before the stimulus money came. And I think we're setting ourselves up for that same situation here with our budget that we're currently working on. And I said this to Senator Stinner

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this morning, I said I felt a little more comfortable in '17, that we made more rational, commonsense decisions when we were short of funds--

**FOLEY:** That's time, Senator.

**ERDMAN:** --than we are now when we have an abundance of money.

**FOLEY:** That's time. Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Dorn.

**DORN:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Would Senator Williams yield to a question?

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, I would.

**DORN:** Senator Williams, thank you there, you and Senator Erdman, for that conversation on those funding questions because that answered some of my questions. But I see in the bill that it has a ten-year sunset on the, the way I read it, the funding part of it. Can you explain what will happen at the end of ten years?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes. The, the requirement under LB322 is that the Department of Education maintain records on all of the good, the bad, the ugly, so to speak, of this bill for a ten-year period of time. And you are correct, funding for this program and the continuation of the program ends at the end of ten years. And based on that information that would be collected, this Legislature or someone would have to decide if the program was worthy of continuation and, and supply the funding for it.

**DORN:** OK, that brings up one other question, I guess. Is the program sunseting in ten years or just the funding apparatus?

**WILLIAMS:** Well, the program would still be there, but without funding, I don't think they'd be able to contract with an outside source to pay for it. So, in essence, it would, it would end itself by no money.

**DORN:** Well, and you were smiling. And I am, too, because I, unless some people are reelected and somebody like the Department of Education is watching this ten years from now, none of us will be here. And how is this going to be handled? Or like I said, the Department of Education, I guess, will be watching this and, and bringing something forward at that time. One other question. I think you talked early on in your comments about the current training or

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the training of the, I assume this is probably the Boys Town part of this has been handled by the Department of Education or by the schools?

**WILLIAMS:** It's been all handled through the Department of Education. Now, there are-- many of the school associations that are extremely supportive of this, so they've been on board, but the technical portions are contracted with the Department of Education and Boys Town.

**DORN:** Well, thank you very much. I do stand in support of this bill. I think we nationwide, and not only nationwide, but in Nebraska, need to do these type of programs to make sure that we make as safe as possible for our schoolchildren. You know, the state of Nebraska, the schools are being trusted with the care of those children while they are in school and we need to make sure that we are proactive and do certain things that assure that. And with that, I'll yield my time.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Dorn. Senator Pahls.

**PAHLS:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I have always believed in sunsets. If any of you had known me from my past, which I was just reminded a few minutes ago, if ten years is too long, that could be shortened. But the reason I'm standing up here is because I'm doing this from a personal experience. Several years ago, when I was a school administrator and I had retired, and some young man had opted into the Millard School District who had some, some issues apparently nobody was catching on. He became so disturbed that he went to a school and shot and killed one of the school administrators and wounded several other people. And then a little, and then within a few hours, he committed suicide. I don't want to go into the details, but those issues are out there. And over my 30-some years, there were students that I was involved with and we did talk-- I mean, we had counselors involved. This is an issue that, first of all, it's not going to go away and it's out there. And I've worked in schools that had people on both ends of the financial spectrum and it was in both of those spectrums. So many times we have a tendency to believe there's a certain spectrum because of your financial ability. It's all over. There are a lot of young people out there hurting. So I do see the necessity of this and as I was going through the bill, it did say a lot of the expense would be from having to have counselors to talk to these individuals and managers and things like that. And it is a system, but in that system, it does provide services. And if any of you have been with a young adult and you know they're hurting and you're telling them they need to seek additional help, a lot of them are basically, well, they don't-- they're embarrassed. So we need to



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find a way so they can find-- I know right now in, I know in the Millard school system, they do have a system that you can call in, but this seems to be something that we ought to be taking a look at. I know the dollar sign is a significant factor for us. So if that happens to be, if that's going to hold you up, because I believe after several years, we're going to see how many calls were in there and that will sell it. You don't need anybody standing up and say, hey, this is something we need because the data will be there saying we had this many calls, which I think has, has been indicated. We, we're surprised how many young people out there who appear to be just like us, well, some of us have issues, I'm sure, that have that underlying factor that it's in some extent it is a little scary. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Pahls. Senator Erdman.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. I probably won't take the whole five minutes, but I need to say a few more things, I believe. I was wondering if Senator Williams would yield to a couple more questions.

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

**WILLIAMS:** Certainly.

**ERDMAN:** Senator Williams, I don't know if you're the person to ask this question, but currently we have like 16 ESUs and I would, I would make a guess or an assumption that those ESUs have psychologists and counselors on staff in their organization. Would you agree?

**WILLIAMS:** I believe that's correct.

**ERDMAN:** So when these calls come in, will they then contact those people in the ESUs that have the training to handle those calls?

**WILLIAMS:** That's not the, the way this is set up. Each school that applies to participate in this sets up their own threat assessment team. That threat assessment team goes through extensive training with the Department of Education. That threat assessment team is made up of certainly administration, teachers, but also any mental health practitioners. And that's defined in the bill who those could be, that's school counselors. So the threat assessment, if some-- if a call were to come in, the, the referral would go directly to members of that threat assessment team at the school affected by the call, not through the-- wouldn't be funneled through the ESU.

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**ERDMAN:** OK, so but if, if an ESU had on staff people that were trained to do those things that these call, these people on the call are going to be able to do, would it not make sense to have those people transferred to the ESU counselors to handle those issues in their location?

**WILLIAMS:** You have to think about the fact that these calls come in at all times of day and night, 24/7. In fact, 52 percent of the calls come in in the evening.

**ERDMAN:** OK.

**WILLIAMS:** Another 19 percent come in overnight and only 44 percent of the calls come in during the daytime.

**ERDMAN:** OK. All right. OK, thank you for answering that. So to finish up what I said earlier, that when I ran out of time, was about we have increased the base and we need to be very cognizant of that because going forward, we're going to have to fund that. And I may not be around in this body long enough to deal with that, but some of you will. And the other issue is I am not in favor of voting \$900,000 from the General Fund to fund this, this bill. And so if this bill is going to advance and get my vote, it has to have different funding than general funds. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Groene.

**GROENE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to LB322. I see-- a quick read of it, I see absolutely no parental notification that some anonymous person whose child might not like the other kid in the class and the parent or the child calls in anonymous lines and make accusations. It seems the first thing that happens is that this team of appointed in the school starts observing this kid, following him around, watching him. He has no idea that somebody turned him in, said something negative about him. There's no notification of the, of the child or the parent that somebody has made an accusation against you that your behavior is not acceptable. It says a secure line. You have to create a secure, separate data file on these accusations. There's nothing secure on the computer, nothing secure. This could follow a kid his entire life. We don't know what's going to happen with those records in the future. We don't know if an administrator don't like the kid and he's 30 years old and he's running for Congress and somebody leaks this thing. And once you throw mud at somebody, it's there. Do we want to start wearing brown shirts and reporting each other? Oh, it feels so good. We're going to help this kid, we're going to save people. You can call the police now if your

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neighbor kid is acting strange. You can call their parents now. But man up, woman up and admit you're making an accusation and put your name on that accusation. We don't want to go down this road. I've had an instance in my own life where I seen a kid misbehaving. I went to the parents and told them this kid was doing these things. The parent thanked me. Meanwhile, 50 cars drove by this kid throwing rocks at the cars before I stopped. What are we doing here? What kind of country are we creating here, turning each other in anonymously, labeling kids for life when the accusation might absolutely be false? Putting in a, put in an ideal into the staff's head that this kid is troublesome and it's going to do this when we have no idea if the accusation is accurate. I totally disagree with this bill. It's well-intended, but it isn't America. We don't do these things. I understand Senator Williams is trying to help, but-- and I don't care how many administrators, how many school personnel like this thing. It's not their kid. Till their kid gets turned in, then they'll start wondering about it, keeps him out of the military academy because all records are available to those individuals. Because somebody didn't like him and somebody threw an accusation at him or her. Once it's in writing, once it's on a computer, once it's in a file, it is there. If you want to vote for this, fine, but this ain't the America I want for my grandkids, turning people in anonymously. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Groene. There are no further lights on. Senator Walz, I could recognize you to close or recognize Senator Williams if you prefer. Senator Williams, you're recognized to close on the committee amendment.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you all for, for the debate. I appreciate the questions and the good comments and, and recognizing, again, we can get distracted by who can use a report line like this. And again, it is open to students, parents, faculty to look at these situations. As we talked and as we researched this, there was never a question that there is a need to provide this kind of service to our schools and so that our parents, our students, and our faculty can be safe. There's also not a question that the pilot program that has been conducted over the past year in Douglas County has been successful. Talk to any one of those administrators of those schools and they will tell you stories like Mike [SIC] Adler from Ralston. Yes, there is a cost and I am very sensitive to that. And as I talked on the microphone answering questions to Senator Dorn and Senator Erdman, we are looking for other sources to pay for this other than our funds, our general funds, which we are highly protected. But at the same time, when you think about safety, when

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you think about saving lives, be careful when you start putting dollars on those kind of things. The cost of this program, again, amounts to slightly more than \$2 per student per year. As I mentioned earlier, less than a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas, or a school lunch. This can save lives and will save lives. Again, it is supported by our largest schools in the state, our medium-sized schools, and our small schools. For many years, I was asked to come and talk to the teachers at the Gothenburg public school on the first day of school before they had students, but when they were all lining up and there were always some, some brand new teachers there that I enjoyed talking to and encouraging them and, and being excited for them. And I think you all know my mother was a teacher, my daughter is a teacher, and my daughter-in-law is a teacher. So I have that in my blood. And one of the things I enjoyed doing when I was talking to those teachers was especially finding a young new teacher in the system and going up to them and saying, we are going to trust you with the most important asset that we have: our kids. And that's what we are asking our teachers to do every year and that's what we as parents and grandparents are doing. LB322 gives us the opportunity to create another layer of safety and I would encourage all of us to step up to that responsibility. You have my promise to continue working as we move forward on finding a funding source other than general funds. I would remind everyone again, this was heard in the Education Committee, was unanimously, 8-0, voted out. There was no opposition testimony. I would ask for your green vote on LB464 [SIC] and your green vote then on LB322. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Williams. Members, you've heard the debate in the committee amendment, AM464. The question is the adoption of the committee amendment. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 35 ayes, 4 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

**FOLEY:** The committee amendment has been adopted. Further discussion on the bill as amended. Senator Clements.

**CLEMENTS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I missed the opportunity on the amendment, but I do have a couple questions. If Senator Williams would yield?

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, I would.

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**CLEMENTS:** Thank you. It wasn't clear to me for sure if the local schools would have an expense regarding this program.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you for asking that question, Senator Clements. There is absolutely no cost to the local school system. The only requirement of a local school system to voluntarily participate in this program is the establishment of a threat assessment team and the willingness to have that team trained by the Department of Education. Again, no cost to the school district.

**CLEMENTS:** Would the threat assessment team be volunteers then, unpaid?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, they are members of the school staff, generally at least.

**CLEMENTS:** Oh, OK. They're already on staff. Thank you. And the pilot program you mentioned in Omaha, how was that financed?

**WILLIAMS:** That was financed with a federal grant.

**CLEMENTS:** Oh, all right. But the ongoing bill here does not have federal funding, is that it?

**WILLIAMS:** No, there's no federal funding. There was a federal grant that was acquired to do the pilot program in Douglas County.

**CLEMENTS:** Is that one possibility of looking for funding, a funding source, grant funding?

**WILLIAMS:** It's certainly a possibility and I would be happy to be sure that the Department of Education is aware of that comment, Senator Clements.

**CLEMENTS:** Yes, I would like to see that. The idea does look good, but the cost does stick out to me as an, an obstacle. The other thing was on the ten-year sunset, would you consider a five-year sunset? Seemed like five years would be long enough to evaluate how this is doing.

**WILLIAMS:** I would actually have to check with the, the people that brought me the bill, the Department of Education and the education association, Senator Clements. I think they, they brought it as a ten-year with the idea that that would give them significant amount of time to weigh the, the good, bad, and the ugly of the program and what could be improved, but I would certainly be willing to look at that.

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**CLEMENTS:** Yeah, I'd like to know if that's a possibility. Those were all the questions I had. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Clements. Senator Erdman.

**ERDMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I appreciated, I appreciated Senator Clements' questions, but I would have one more, at least if Mr.-- excuse me, Senator Williams would yield.

**FOLEY:** Senator Williams, would you yield, please?

**WILLIAMS:** Yes, I would.

**ERDMAN:** Senator Williams, what was the amount of the grant that was secured to do that pilot program?

**WILLIAMS:** You know, Senator Erdman, I don't remember, or maybe I've never known, but I don't know the answer to that question.

**ERDMAN:** OK. I was just curious whether that would be a more robust grant than what you're asking for in the \$900,000. That just seems exorbitant to me. But as you said, they're going to be trained people that are going to be doing this, not just regular phone-answering people. I appreciate that, but ten years is a long time for a sunset and I would think that what Senator Clements said about five years will be sufficient enough time because as you have already described to us, that you thought that one year of a pilot program in the Omaha Public Schools was significant enough for us to move forward with this bill. So if one year of information gathered in the pilot program was sufficient for you to make a decision to move on, I would think five years would be more than sufficient enough time for you to understand whether it was successful or not. And so I believe that that sunset should be a lot less than ten years and we need to work on doing something different than what ten years is in the bill now. Thank you.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Williams, you're recognized close on the advance of the bill.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. President. And again, thank you for the questions. I will certainly look at that sunset. I did wanted to respond to Senator Groene's concern. The reports from this do not become part of a student's records. I was just a text messaged that from the people behind the scenes, so I hope that gives some answer to the, that question. Again, as we move on and move forward with this, I'm happy to look at situations on the funding side and the

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sunset side. I think we do need to understand with school districts all the way across the state, not just our public school system, but also the private schools that can participate in this, it will take time for it to ramp up and too short a sunset would cut that too short. So with that, I would encourage your green vote to move LB322 forward. Thank you, Mr. President.

**FOLEY:** Thank you, Senator Williams. Members, you've heard the debate on LB322. The question before the body is the advance of the bill to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you ever voted? Record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 33 ayes, 5 nays on the motion to advance the bill.

**FOLEY:** LB322 advances. Items for the record, please.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** A series of items, Mr. President. The bills that were read on Final Reading this morning were presented to the Governor [LB1e, LB4, LB21, LB23e, LB25e, LB77, LB149, LB159, LB174, LB248, LB253e, LB363e, LB373, LB532, and LB44). New A bills. LB344A by Senator Friesen would appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of LB344; LB317A by Senator John Cavanaugh would appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of LB317. A series of committee reports. Your Committee on Education reports LB117 to General File with amendments; 3-- LB132, General File with amendments; LB137, General File with amendments; and LB473 to General File with amendments. The Executive Board reports a LB247 to General File with committee amendments attached, as well as reporting LR25 to the Legislature for further consideration. Committee on Judiciary reports LB13, LB88, LB445 all to General File, as well as LB49 and LB320 to General File with committee amendments attached. Committee on Transportation reports LB388 to General File with committee amendments. Series of priority bills. Senator Kolterman to LB64, Senator Morfeld to LB88, Senator Slama to LB139, Senator Hughes to LB650, Senator Hilkeman to LB496, Senator Lowe to LB273. In addition to that, Urban Affairs has selected LB131 as a committee priority bill, as well as LB156. Senator Wayne has selected LB544 as his personal priority bill. A new resolution, LR59 by Senator Murman, congratulates Jacob Drain for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Amendments to be printed. Senator Lowe to LB37, Senator Vargas to LB241. In addition, Senator Ben Hansen has designated LB644 as priority bill; Senator Matt Hansen, LB258. Name adds. Senator Aguilar to LB39, Senator Brewer to LB40, Senator Lowe to LB236, Senator Groene to LB236, Senator Sanders to LB236, Senator Bostleman to LB236, and Senator Aguilar would add his name to LB255. An announcement that the Revenue Committee will meet today in Executive

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Session at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1507. Health and Human Services Committee will hold an Executive Session on Friday, March 12th at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1510. Finally, a priority bill. Senator Pahls would move to adjourn until Friday, March 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

**FOLEY:** Members, you heard the motion to adjourn. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.