

January 7, 1976

a further determination can be made of whether it is important, necessary, or not. LB 176.

CLERK: Mr. President, a request to bracket LB 176 until February 9th. Signed Senator Fowler.

SPEAKER: Any objections? So ordered. LB 545.

CLERK: LB 545 is Public Health.

SPEAKER: Senator Kennedy, are you prepared to take up LB 545 at this time?

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes.

CLERK: LB 545 introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee and signed by the Senators Kennedy, Moylan, Lewis, Marsh, Cavanaugh, Fowler and Kelly. Read Title. There are Committee amendments, Mr. President, signed by Senator Kennedy, Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

SENATOR KENNEDY: A brief explanation of the bill. This bill was introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee at the request of the Department of Public Welfare. Its purpose was concerning children who are wards of the state under the custodian and control of the Nebraska Center for Children and Youth. This section provides that the children owning assets shall be responsible for their personal items and that each asset over and above the maximum of seven hundred and fifty shall be available for reimbursements to the state for the cost of care. As introduced, this bill would raise the amount to \$1500. This is only that the assets of children above this figure shall be available for reimbursing the state for the cost of their care. The testimony as given was from the Welfare Department and from their attorney, Mr. Warnsholz. I think probably part of this might have been because of decisions of insurance, that insurance for large sums were awarded to these particular children and then there was no way that they could pay or would pay this back to the state if a large sum was paid by an insurance firm. There was an amendment proposed by Mr. Warnsholz which was adopted which strikes the words "per diem" in line 12 of this bill and it was adopted by the Committee. The second amendment proposed by Senator Cavanaugh was adopted and it would further increase the amount of assets that children would be held from the statute to the cost of the care up to \$5000 rather than \$1500. This was adopted by a vote of 4 to 2 and the bill was advanced to the floor by a vote of 5 to 2, two opposing and five supporting the bill. The general change would be with amendments that they would be liable up to an expense over \$5000 to pay back to the state. I would be happy to run any questions. If any of the other Committee members have any input, I certainly would advise them to give us their statement. If no further, I would like to ask that the amendments be adopted that the Committee did agree on.

SPEAKER: For what purpose do you arise, Senator Dickinson? On the amendments or on the bill.