

April 4, 1978

LB 748, 057

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of Senator Barnett's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: We advance LB 748 to E & R engrossing.

PRESIDENT: All in favor say aye, contrary say nay. It is advanced. In the North balcony, we have 25 ladies from St. Stanislaus Parish in South Omaha and St. Stans is in Senator Labeledz' District. In fact, she lives across the street from the parish house. Thank you all for being here. We now go to LB 957.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Steve Fowler moves to return LB 957 to Select File for specific amendment.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay. I have handed the amendment out to everybody. I handed it out about a half hour, forty-five minutes ago. It deals with the issue of mental retardation. It was asked for by the Nebraska Association of Retarded Citizens. It deals with the legislative intent language. It does not in any way add or subtract appropriations. All it does is clarify some intent. There is no fiscal impact on this amendment. It does three things with regard to intent. First of all, it indicates that in developing a plan for movement of people from the Beatrice State Home to the regions that this be done in consultation with the six mental retardation regions and that that language is simply to ensure that the regions that are affected do have some input into the plan. That is all it says. It guarantees consultation. It does not give them a veto power or anything like that. The Department of Institutions will draw up the plan. It just simply must be done in consultation with. The second thing it does is yesterday, you may recall, we added some additional money to move people out of the Beatrice State Home this year. What this amendment addresses is the source of continuation funds if those people are moved out. There is a million dollars that was set aside for accreditation of the Beatrice State Home for next year with the understanding that if people were moved out that money would be spent in the regions. This just clarifies the continuation for people moved out this year will be spent out of that million dollars. Again, it has no fiscal impact. It simply clarifies the intent of the Appropriations Committee, and the third amendment deals with the Hastings Regional Center. There is one ward of school aged mentally retarded children there. It is my understanding that this ward will be phased out. All it says is that as it is phased out the plans for those students be made in cooperation with the regional programs and school districts of residence. This is required, basically, under LB 403 that these school aged children be the responsibility of the local school district. This clarifies that. All the amendments do is clarify some legislative intent. It was asked for by the Nebraska Association of Retarded Citizens. It has no fiscal impact. I would move that the bill be returned.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? The question is, shall LB 957 be returned for the specific amendment? Record.

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