

May 14, 1985

LB 439, 447

the Legislative Journal.) 26 ayes, 19 nays, 3 excused and not voting, 1 present and not voting, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill passes. LB 447.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of motions on 447. The first motion I have is by Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely would move to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment. Senator Wesely's amendment is on page 2215 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, this is AM1385, is that right?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Mr. Speaker, members, this amendment is brought to you because we need to pass two sections of law or face losing I think it is about \$250,000 in federal funds. We were approached by the federal government after the session started that we needed a couple of changes in the statutes. They are not major changes, but if we didn't make the changes, they threatened to withdraw federal funding. So we found a very attractive bill that was in the subject area of child abuse, Senator Barrett's LB 333. So we added a couple of sections to that bill and let it ride along out of committee and along to Select File where it kind of is sitting right now, probably not to be considered again this year. So our attempt to deal with the issue through LB 333 is no longer possible. LB 447 deals with a similar subject area. I have passed out for your review a letter from Gina Dunning explaining why we need these sections of law and the consequences in terms of federal funding. We did discuss these in committee. They were brought to our attention at the hearing on LB 333. We have discussed these matters on the floor on General File. There is no attempt to do anything but be up front about it. But we do need to pass these two different changes. Let me just summarize quickly what they do. The first deals with the definition of abuse or neglect and the reporting law. Again, federal requirements called for this change in definition. The other thing is that we have to provide for screening checks for child care in the early childhood program participants so that we are sure that those people