

hard on this and those others who are co-sponsors felt this need, and we were reminded of this need by the Benson Little Leagues, the Lincoln Babe Ruth Baseball Association, the Lincoln Track Club, the Plains Track Club, Nebraska American Legion, Lincoln Midget Football League, Little League Baseball, Keystone Little League, Amateur Softball Association, and the Hillside Little League who cared enough about this to come down and testify at the hearing. I urge the advancement.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford, for the remainder of the closing.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just simply say that...reiterate why I was involved in this bill, and I think as the testimony at the hearing indicated, Nebraska is the victim here. The Little Leagues in Nebraska are victims to what are, in fact, increasing insurance rates and increased fear over these rates. Nebraska has not had a series of lawsuits involving Little League coaches. Nebraska, in fact, has had none that I am aware of, though there have been some claims. The problem is not lawsuits brought by greedy lawyers in Nebraska because they just don't exist. (Laughter.) The problem is that our state is the direct recipient of decisions made by insurance companies and others in other parts of the country that have decided that the rates must go higher, that it is much more difficult, and is, therefore, much more difficult for volunteer sports organizations to attract coaches and attract sponsors. That is why I co-sponsored this bill. It is needed in Nebraska, unfortunately, and I urge that it be advanced. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing. The question is, shall the committee amendments to LB 123 be adopted? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Pirsch, I would request that you would explain the bill, and then I would like to go to a priority motion, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill, as it stands now, are the amendments that are the amalgamation of LB 43, 123,