

would ask your favorable consideration of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You've heard the amendment explained by Senator Dierks. Is there discussion? Seeing none, the question is the adoption of the Dierks amendment to LB 50. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the amendment. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. Senator Dierks, to the bill as amended.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would like to tell you a little bit about the bill and tell you some of the reasons for presenting the bill. The main reason is that current statutes are pretty sketchy concerning animal neglect and animal abuse. We have had several instances of animal neglect, especially instances of animal starvation and water deprivation, happened in the state in the last several years. And there is also the problem of animal neglect and abuse as far as small animals, pet animals of people in the metropolitan areas. The impetus to introduce this bill was brought to us by the Animal Control people in Lincoln. As we got into it, we decided it was necessary to cover all aspects of animal neglect. So we had several meetings with farm groups across the state. We included Animal Control people, we included people from the research area. We wanted to provide an adequate animal neglect bill, one that would provide legislation and new regulations to do adequate control of animal neglect and animal cruelty and still allow people to continue the business that they are in in Nebraska. That's the reason for some of the exemptions that I talked about. The body of the bill provides for some new definitions. I think that this was very necessary because the old animal neglect statutes did not provide good definitions. We define animal neglect and animal cruelty, we define animal control officers, we define humane killing. I'd like to just go over that a little bit for you. Humane killing shall mean the destruction of an animal by a method which causes the animal a minimum of pain and suffering, that particular definition in current law is lacking. We need to have definitions of abandonment, we do that in the bill. We define what a law enforcement officer shall be, as far as animal control people are concerned. And we define what cruelty is to