

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 18, 1998 LB 1063

covered underneath 1063. We may have the opportunity to, perhaps, cover more children in that particular family. We've got an age here at 18 years old, they're going to be cut off. Maybe we can cover beyond that period. Those are all things that I think we can take a look at. We certainly also have the opportunity for an interim study before this date reaches... becomes effective so that we can seriously look at all the factors; the number of children, the number of benefits, perhaps there might be a private firm that can do more than what even Medicaid is doing or at least cover more individuals. So I really like the approach of the sunset provision. It allows us to take a look at what other states are doing. It allows us to take a look at what our state is doing, the number of children that are there, and gives us that opportunity then to do what is best for Nebraska. With that, I would just urge the body's support of the Brown amendment. I see there's no fear here; there's nothing to lose. I think it gives us the opportunity to look at all choices that are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the Brown amendment for a three-year sunset. I think that if one looks at this from a process point of view, it's very easy to see that it is a reasonable accommodation from the position of not being supportive of the bill whatsoever. I think that in three legislative sessions, not counting this one, but next year, the year after, and the third legislative session gives ample time for this august body to react to any changes that may need to occur. We're going to do some things in the next 15 days that would make this look silly saying that this is unreasonable to be able to address this circumstance in a three-year period of time. But why are we considering 1063 at all? We're addressing this situation for one reason, federal funds and federal funds alone. This proposal wouldn't be here if we weren't being enticed by federal funding. And so we're being asked to put up 5, 6 million dollars to match 16, 17 million dollars of federal funding each year. And because of that, we're going to address LB 1063. Now I ask you, is this an unfunded mandate? We talk a lot about unfunded mandates; federal level to state level, state level to the local level. Is this an unfunded mandate? Most people would say "no." Is