

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

February 1, 1999 LB 227

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill this morning, LB 227, by Senator Hilgert. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 11, at that time referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Hilgert, to open on LB 227.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 227 is a similar bill that we saw last year that advanced seven to zero out of...seven, zero, and one...one absent. (Microphone fading out.) Thank you. LB 227 is very similar to a bill that we heard last year, 995. That came out seven, zero and one, no dissent and no opponents. Same thing happened this year in committee. This has absolutely no fiscal impact. It is a bill which would basically do away with the five-year residency requirement. If for...if the person is a veteran and a resident of the state of Nebraska, we're doing away with the five-year residency requirements. We are retaining, though, and making very clear in LB 227 that we're not talking about changing the residency requirements for our universities and colleges. Those will still be in place. We didn't want to inadvertently say that if you're a veteran and you move into Nebraska you no longer have a residency requirement. The money that they anticipate being drawn down regarding this comes out of the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund, sometimes referred to the NVA Fund. This fund is...is stable. The department has said that there's plenty of money in it. They expect some more veterans to be using or applying from...funds out of the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund, and there's really no issue regarding fiscal impact. If you look at the fiscal note, it just doesn't have any. One might ask, well, Senator Hilgert, why are you advocating that we do away with our five-year residency requirements; don't you think there should be some nexus and commitment with the state of Nebraska? Certainly, that is a valid observation, one that I, of course, too asked when approached by the department regarding this bill, but the fact of the matter is other states are changing theirs based on court action. It has been found in court cases from, it's, New York, New Mexico, California, to name a few. Idaho's presently removing their three-year