

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2002 LB 642, 1309

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The house is under call. Would all absent members please return to the Chamber and record your presence. The house is under call. Senator Janssen. Senator Bromm. Call the roll, Mr. Clerk. Machine vote. All of those in...the motion is on the advancement of the bill. All those in favor say (sic) aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 7 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 1309.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The bill advances. The call is raised. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, the next bill, LB 642, introduced by Senator Dwite Pedersen. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 16 of last year, at that time referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Pedersen, to open on your bill.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. LB 642 is a bill that I introduced at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services last year. It provides for public disclosure of certain information in the case of child deaths or near deaths from suspected abuse, neglect, or maltreatment. The bill provides for the release of that information, including a provision for appeal if release of the information is denied. An amendment to the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, passed in 1996, requires states to have a provision for public disclosure of information in child deaths or near deaths. The requirement is a condition in order to receive federal grant funds. For Nebraska, this requirement is directly linked to receipt of \$171,000 of federal funds from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and an additional \$144,000 of federal funds from the Children's Justice Act. This is a total of \$315,000 that the state of Nebraska stands to lose. It is my understanding that the federal