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April 5, 2004           LB 391  
                          LR 170

make those important decisions, and the statutes of Nebraska concerning the age of majorities will not change those decisions. And we've had discussions this morning and over the past few weeks about this issue, and Senator Beutler also will be discussing that as well. The Nebraska courts have held that courts can enforce support agreements beyond the age of majority currently. And in addition, the Nebraska appellate court held that subsequent changes to a state's statutes do not change the support order from a court. It remains as it was the day it went into effect. LB 391 will allow the young people of Nebraska the opportunity to be recognized and respected by the state, and would give them the ability to do what is necessary and best for them to succeed. The state should do everything to help them in this endeavor, not hinder them. For those reasons, I ask for your support in advancing LB 391. The committee amendment is a substantial addition to the green copy of the bill. The Judiciary Committee, as I mentioned earlier, has worked on this issue. The legal counsel has spent many hours looking at legislative history as well. And I would encourage your attention to Senator Brashear as he opens on the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Erdman. The Chair would recognize Senator Brashear to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Good morning. The Judiciary Committee amendment to LB 391 would replace the original sections of the green copy and continue and advance the intent of the bill. Legislative Resolution...study resolution LR 170 was introduced last year to study which statutes would be affected by lowering the age of majority in Nebraska. It was concluded that the age of majority is utilized in a number of our statutes, all of which need to be amended in order to accurately reflect lowering the age of majority to 18. As a result of that interim study, 57 statutes were identified as in need of amendment, and they are amended in the committee amendment. That's the reason you have the great number of pages to the committee amendment that you do. The handout provided to you, the blue handout, lists each statutory section amended by the committee amendment. And I'd like to highlight some of the provisions which are affected by the