

CLERK: Read Record vote. 13 ayes, 25 nays, 5 present and not voting, 6 excused and not voting. Vote appears on page 356 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion fails and motion is not adopted. The Chair will recognize Senator Kremer to speak on the bill as a whole and then Senator Fowler. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I could have presented this same argument when we talked about the amendment. My concern when this same bill was introduced a year ago, or practically the same bill, it has been amended to where it is more palatable to all concerned this year and to me it makes it more acceptable. My question was this. Are the people that are involved in this debate qualified? I'm talking about the optometrists, what are their qualifications as far as their basic education is concerned. Then what are their qualifications as related to the up-dating of their training as required by their own people for additional training year by year. So let's go over it. Number one, all of the 13 optometric and this is the information that was given to me and it can be documented, all of the 13 optometric colleges are fully accredited first of all by the same regional accrediting agencies as schools of dentistry, medicine and so on. Number two, for over 25 years the optometric colleges have been teaching optometrist about eye diseases, optometrist I pronounced it wrong, I'm sorry. For years practicing optometrists have been detecting disease problems by looking into the eyes so this isn't new. Now, to insure that the practicing optometrists are properly trained and approximately 105 Nebraska optometrists spent their own money to bring the comprehensive pharmacology course into Nebraska. The course was developed and taught and supervised by fully accredited optometric institution. Number three, the faculty consisted of a pharmacologist and six ophthalmologists, who also teach in medical schools. The curriculum was jointly developed by the optometric institution and members of a school of pharmacy and ophthalmologists, who teach in the medical schools. I'd like to further point out that the 105 course was a college credit course of six and a quarter semester hours, or nearly nine college quarterly credits. The 105 hour course has been reviewed by such as Creighton University faculty and administrators, and the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry, and received excellent comments. Now in closing there's two other comments that I'd like to draw to your attention. In addition to the excellent training of the schools in the 105 hour course, all optometrists in the state of Nebraska, must...I'd like to emphasize that word must attend 16 hours of mandatory continuing education each year to review their license. And the last statement I'll make, I fully believe, with the information