

course from Douglas County is approximately a hundred and thirty five, forty, fifty miles. Studies have shown us that the mortality rate is much higher for those residents moved a great distance from their homes. I think with the establishment of this second veterans home in Douglas County, Nebraska, I think this mortality rate would be diminished substantially. We know that veterans and veterans associations over a long period of time have actively sought an eastern Nebraska veterans home. There is not in existence an eastern Nebraska veterans home currently. There is not. The only existing Nebraska veterans home is in Grand Island, Nebraska, with subsidiaries of course in Norfolk and Scottsbluff. 33%, approximately 66,800 veterans of the state live in Douglas and Sarpy County. 58% or approximately 116,000 veterans of this State of Nebraska live within a fifty mile radius of Douglas County. There is a three to six month waiting period for veterans admission into the present facilities that we now have and of course there is a waiting period of up to three years for widows, wives and Gold Star mothers and fathers for admission into our present facilities. It is rather obvious that we are lacking in the need to serve the veterans of this state and statute informs us, it tells us that we must, that we must provide for nursing care as well as legal resident care for veterans of this state who are in need of. The bill has been broken down into several areas of discussion this morning and I will relinquish whatever time I have, Mr. Speaker, to any of the other co-introducers of this particular measure.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Labeledz, do you want to speak next?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, thank you. I also am very pleased that I was asked to be co-sponsor of LB 184. I was very impressed when I went out to Grand Island and saw the type of care and they have four different types of care at Grand Island and I won't go into detail as to cost and everything but we do have it for every type of care they have. But they do give a personal self-care, the skilled nursing care, medical and nursing care, chronic and convalescent and skilled nursing. This is available to all war time veterans, Gold Star mothers and fathers and spouses. Now what happens, according to the people I have talked to at Grand Island, when the veteran is sent to the Veterans Hospital, say for instance in Omaha, they keep him there of course until he is up to the point where there is nothing else they can do for him. Then he is either asked to be removed to a nursing home or to a vets home but because of the crowded conditions of Scottsbluff and Grand Island, Norfolk, there is no possible way. There is