

April 7, 1981

LB 478

of these amendments is to extend this need standard from the elderly provisions, 3507, into the status homestead exemptions. What are the homestead exemptions that are now being given simply on the basis of status and not on the basis of need? Well, they include...the disabled definitions, they include veterans who are totally disabled by a nonmilitary accident or illness; individuals who are paralyzed in both legs; individuals who have undergone multiple amputation; individuals who have progressive neuromuscular and neurological disease; individuals who have undergone multiple amputation of both arms above the elbow. That is 3508. 3509 indicates that for those veterans who are on a hundred percent disability but who are not eligible for the total exemptions found in another section of the statute, that they are covered by a 90% exemption as well as the unremarried widow or widower of such a veteran; or any veteran who died because of service connected disability; or the unremarried widow or widower of a serviceman who dies while on active duty. These exemptions while very noble in their purpose are simply for a status. They are the recognition of a status without regard to the need of that person for the exemption granted and those sections, there is a 90% exemption up to the first \$35,000. That is different than the elderly. The elderly have a graded exemption up to 100% on their first \$35,000 of valuation. Again the purpose of the amendment is very simple. The purpose is to apply the need standard that we currently utilize for the elderly to the other status homestead exemptions and those, essentially, are veteran related and disabled related sections of the law. There is, I might also add, on the last couple of pages of the amendments a tie-in to Section 77-3527 which has to do with the ownership of a house, the sale of the house and the proceeds. If the house is purchased by the Veterans Administration, that is an exempt house. If the person who owns that house or is living in the house, sells that Veterans Administration bought home, uses the proceeds to buy another house, that second house is also exempt and I can only say that what we have done is establish the same need pattern in that instance as well. That is the purpose of the amendments to LB 478. I would urge their adoption. If you have questions, please address them to myself and I believe Senator Peterson will close with respect to this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, did you want to talk about this?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to very strongly support this amendment. Basically the bill as I saw it when it came before us on General File had two problems. We all hopefully have a great deal