

January 15, 1982

LB 353

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CLARK: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Nichol on the bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: The purpose of LB 353 is to address the specific problem which arises from time to time with regard to juvenile court placements. Juvenile court judges have a great deal of latitude in these placements and occasionally a few judges have made placements which have not set too well with the Department of Public Welfare. This will arise in cases where a juvenile court judge will commit a child to the Department of Public Welfare but will then instruct the Department of Public Welfare to send the child to some experimental group or camp situation outside the State of Nebraska. There have been instances in the past where the courts have sent children out of the state to get special medical care which isn't available within the state. We are not talking about that type of situation in LB 353. We are talking about what are essentially group therapy sessions organized around a camping trip or a wilderness program around the United States and recent studies have shown these are of questionable value to the child. If a court directs the Department of Welfare to pick up the tab for this type of activity under the present law, it isn't clear that the Department of Public Welfare can refuse. What we attempt to do with LB 353 is tighten up the regulations to the extent that once a court commits the Department of Welfare, the Department has authority to set up the initial plan of care. We also include a provision requiring the Department of Public Welfare to file with the court a progress report on each child at regular six month intervals or shorter intervals if ordered by the court or deemed appropriate by the Department. With LB 353 we hope to increase the cooperation between the juvenile courts and the Department of Public Welfare. I move for the advancement of LB 353 as amended.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any discussion on the advancement of LB 353? If not, all those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the advancement of LB 353? Record the vote.