

February 3, 1982

LB 597

there either since we want them just on vehicles of police and arresting officers. So I move for the adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

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

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, LB 597 allows Nebraska law enforcement agencies the option of installing blue or red and blue flashing lights on the top of their vehicles. Approximately half of the states apparently allow the law enforcement agency to use blue lights. Presently several Nebraska law enforcement agencies use blue lights including Cheyenne County Sheriffs Department, the Papillion City Police Department, Ogallala City Police, and the Fremont City Police Department. Gering used the blue lights for approximately two weeks and then removed them because in the opinion of their city attorney current statutes do not authorize the use of blue lights. Arguments for them are that the departments that have used blue lights say they get a better response from other motorists because they do not blend in with the red taillights and the other flashing red lights. Also it is supposed to cut through the fog and blowing snow better and the response is that people like it better than the flashing red. I guess you might maybe see they don't see so much red so it is an option that they may use them. They don't have to use them. Approximately half of the states use them so I move for the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I hope you listen carefully to the debate on this particular issue because I think it goes to the philosophy of law enforcement. This is not a mandatory requirement for law enforcement vehicles throughout the state but it could be used by any police agency in the state if they choose to. I think there ought to be a uniformity in law enforcement and people ought to be able to recognize certain symbols as depicting law enforcement. They are familiar with the red or the flashing