

Mr. President, with respect to 520, it was a bill introduced by Senator V. Johnson (Read Title). The bill was read on January 20th of last year. At that time it was referred to the Education Committee, Mr. President. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Education Committee amendments pending to the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Koch to explain the amendments.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, the bill that we are speaking to is the white copy in the book. That is the committee amendment. The committee held an interim study on the issue of child care and as a result of that with the cooperation of Senator Johnson the committee placed this bill before you so the white copy is what we are going to adopt as the committee amendments and I ask for adoption of that committee amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson and Beutler would move to amend the committee amendments and their amendment is on page 1051 of the Journal.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, the amendment that Senator Beutler and I are proposing is very straightforward. LB 520 is a bill designed to deal with the care of children by persons other than the parent in the State of Nebraska. The bill has been put together frankly, over about a one and a half year period of time, it has been worked through an interim study, it has had a tremendous amount of input. The bill itself is in three parts. Part A redoes the basic licensing provision for child care, retaining the licensing provisions with the Department of Welfare. Part B establishes a voluntary accreditation function for quality child care with the Department of Education and Part C for this first time articulates a public subsidy to children from families of low income. Now, when I put this bill together with the assistance of a lot of folks, I wanted to make certain that we had a comprehensive bill to deal with child care so that people in our state who are interested in the well-being of children could understand what a full child care package would look like. But I recognize that ultimately effecting a comprehensive measure would take several years. So, what this amendment to the committee amendment does it really strips out of LB 520 those portions that deal with voluntary accreditation of quality child care with the Department of Education and it strips out of LB 520 the