

Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes sir.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Johnson, I need some clarification. With your first amendment and your reply to Senator Carsten would you tell me just what difference this bill is from the present legislation that we have on day care?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes. The present legislation that we have on child care has number one, the coverage is more limited. It does not, by virtue of an Attorney General's opinion any employer who offers day care in this state is not covered by any regulatory scheme.

SENATOR COPE: Say that again.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Any employer that offers child care in this state is not covered by any regulatory scheme. We have three hospitals in Nebraska right now that are providing day care to the children of their workers. They are not regulated, because that is employer based child care. Secondly, any preschool operation in Nebraska is not covered by any regulatory scheme in our state. The closest that you come to regulating a preschool is that there are fire standards that the state itself has. Now what that means if the state becomes aware of the fact that a preschool is being conducted in somebody's basement they can go down and inspect it and they can apply the fire standards. Other than that there is no regulatory coverage of the preschool offering in Nebraska. So, this bill makes certain that all persons who are caring for the children of others except for casual and irregular care, which is a basic babysitter, at least are covered under a regulator scheme. Secondly, this bill issues licenses to regulated providers for two years, current law is one year. Third, this bill establishes administrative procedure for examining complaints that are made against child care providers and under the administrative procedures the Department of Public Welfare following a full process kind of a hearing can rescind or revoke a license, can impose an administrative fine, can issue a cease and desist order. That is basically new, that is basically new. That replaces the only real sanction that currently exists which is a misdemeanor penalty for somebody that violates the current law.

SENATOR COPE: Why then couldn't we combine these two? They are both actually babysitting children, correct, because we have taken the education out of the preschool, correct, with your amendment?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, what we did . . .