

April 7, 1982

LB 602

Senator Johnson, and I would appreciate the rest of the body to help me to help Senator Johnson's bill so it won't be unconstitutional. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: The motion is the adoption of the Haberman amendment to the amendment. Those in support vote yes. Those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 6 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: We are back on the Johnson amendment and I believe Senator Carsten wanted to talk on the bill or on the Johnson amendment. Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would just like to ask Senator Johnson a question to be sure I understood correctly. As I understood, there are no additional costs to the county under these amendments. Is that my understanding, or are there additional costs, Senator Johnson?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: In my opinion, Senator Carsten, there will be additional costs to the county, in my opinion.

SENATOR CARSTEN: However, as I also understood, the representative of the County Officials Association has agreed that they would assume them without any problem, is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, they have. Yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, just to explain and clarify. This bill also amends LB 522 or the affect of it is to amend LB 522 which is on Final Reading. What LB 522 does is takes all the welfare programs off the county and puts them on the state. What this bill does is amends that one so that it says the welfare system...if this bill passes, if both bills pass the welfare system will be as follows: The state will be responsible for the entire welfare system in the State of Nebraska except indigent care for medical persons. The state will assume responsibility for medicaid and all those other things but the counties will continue to be responsible for indigent care. As Senator Johnson said earlier, indigent care has not been a large budget item in the State of Nebraska but it could be and it will probably grow. And