

is \$50 or, in effect, \$25 a year. Now LB 928 which is a fee bill that has just moved off of Select File to Final Reading has some fees in it also for the first time and the fees that LB 520 would propose are actually higher than those in LB 928 so 520 would generate more revenue than 928 would do. Incidentally I want you to know I worked this bill over the long pull with a lot of people, including people who provide care in the homes and they have basically accepted the licensing fees. They don't think that is an unreasonably high fee. Right now the fee incidentally is \$1.00. Third, LB 520, as amended, says that the only people who could ever regulate in the area is the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare. Now inasmuch as we have deregulated the small facilities and inasmuch as there is one community, i.e., Lincoln, that still regulates the small facilities, Lincoln has asked for and I have agreed to and so, too, have other people who have been involved with this issue, a provision which says if a local subdivision wishes to continue to regulate those facilities that would be exempted under 520, they have the right to do so. That is sort of the local option right to do that. So if they want to regulate care provided in the home for only two children or three children or four children, they have got that right to do so. They can develop their own standards and they can do it but that is a local option. Then in addition it goes on to provide that if they want to regulate where the state is regulating, they can do so but their standards must be the same as the state's standards. They can have no deviation from the state standards because too often people are whipsawed by conflicting standards and that has been agreed to. Now if a local subdivision does that degree of regulation and conducts all the inspections, then they can retain the licensing fee. Finally, you've received a lot of letters from preschools, I know, because I have gotten a lot of letters from preschools. Preschools today are not licensed by the State of Nebraska and one of their basic concerns frankly, is that the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare will treat them exactly like day care centers and will regulate them overly extensively. So I have an amendment which just says that when the Department of Public Welfare regulates for health, safety and protection of children it is to recognize the natural differences that exist among the various kinds of programs that are around, i.e., the difference that exists between a day care home which right now is regulated less extensively than a day care center and the differences that naturally exist between a center and a preschool that provides maybe three or four hours of service a day. Those are the amendments. They are very straightforward. I would hope that nobody would have any basic dispute with those amendments and I would ask at this time that the amendments be adopted.