

April 8, 1982

LB 520

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the body, you know the world doesn't come to an end simply because my amendment didn't get adopted. But, I will tell the Lincolnite senators that they have some reason to be concerned. Because without that amendment, that amendment means that the local option feature is gone totally and absolutely. Okay? But that is the way I wrote the bill in the first instance. I never did think the local option feature was the very best thing to have. But Lincoln has, Lincoln does regulate this area fairly extensively, but Omaha does not, Grand Island does not, North Platte does not. Now rural senators, Senator Burrows, Senator Haberman and everyone here who voted to support LB 270 which attempted to deregulate the small homes, you should vote to advance this bill. Because, this bill deregulates the small homes. If you supported the concept in 270, you will support the concept in 520. Because, it does deregulate those small homes. It has always been a solid piece. It has always been a solid piece. But, you know there comes a time when they accommodate just one too many. That one too many was Lincoln, bless their hearts, but the amendment was not adopted. That means that there will be no local option, you have full state Department of Public Welfare regulation, you exempt the small homes which represents a significant change to current law. You decriminalize, you decriminalized care givers who violate regulations, you know current law now says somebody can be prosecuted, fined, put in jail. This bill takes that out. It allows an administrative sanction. No criminal penalties, it allows an administrative sanction. This bill allows licensing every two years rather than every one year, which is the current law. Now this bill does cover the preschool, it covers the preschool because the preschool ought to be covered. You know the preschools are covered now in a majority of states. A majority of states cover preschool. A majority of states have the regulation of preschools done by the Department's of Public Welfare or their equivalence. I don't see any reason why Nebraska can't at least do the same thing and regulate in the area of health, protection and safety. That's all I'm asking. That is all we want. I think that is all our children want. So at this time I would move the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

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