

Several states have free or reduced...

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, excuse me a moment. (Gavel.) We are too noisy, would you hold it down so we can hear the speakers. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Several states have such free or reduced provisions...tuition provisions in their state schools and a survey conducted in 1985 by the American Association of Retired Persons showed that 25 states had passed similar legislation. Ten states have an administrative policy allowing free or reduced tuition for senior citizens. In the remainder of the states, individual institutions have enacted such tuition policies and in Nebraska, for example, the surveys showed that only five colleges offer such programs, however, those being Chadron State, Grace College of the Bible, Metro Tech, Nebraska Wesleyan and Southeast Community College. This LB 180, if passed, would allow senior citizens of Nebraska the opportunity to attend classes tuition-free. It would be an excellent opportunity for senior citizens to expand their horizons and perhaps continue a previously interrupted college education or begin a new one. Although the classes would be on a noncredit basis, they could still provide a stimulating academic experience for those who always wanted, but perhaps could not afford, to attend college. Senior citizens could also be beneficial to the educational process of other students in the class since they would be bringing their knowledge and experience into the classroom. I have taken graduate courses at the university and I can tell you that senior citizens who attend those classes have been very helpful in stimulating class discussion, in providing their experiences and knowledge to that classroom setting and they facilitate the educational process. This has been particularly true in some of the education classes that I have taken because when you get teachers who have taught a number of years in school, they can bring to the classroom anecdotes and experiences that they have and those experiences and anecdotes give depth and understanding to the theories you are discussing in those particular education classes. I think the same thing applies, for example, to business classes. If you had people who have served in business who can come into those classes, relate their experiences in Business Administration classes, it would be very helpful not only for the students but also for the instructor teaching those classes. Last year I took a class in