

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 32 passes. That concludes Final Reading this morning. Thank you very much for your cooperation. The call is raised. Anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Not at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Proceeding then directly to General File, LB 134.

CLERK: Mr. President, 134 was a bill that was introduced by Senators Scofield, McFarland, Baack, Withem, Bernard-Stevens and Nelson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5, referred to Education. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To present LB 134, Senator Scofield, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 134 is a program which would test high school juniors on their mathematics proficiency. They get a computerized printout, which also goes to their parents, which tells them where they would be in a math course when they enter the university. It is a program that has been modeled after other states' programs and it's been in operation in Nebraska, on a pilot basis, since 1988 when we started out with 21 schools. Up to now it has been funded through a mixture of sources, with the university coming up with a little bit of money, the Department of Education coming up with a little bit of money, American Math Competitions a little bit of money, and there was enough put together to start this pilot program. The reason I decided to support this particular issue is it was brought to my attention by a mathematics instructor out in my district at a time when math teachers were meeting from across the state out there. It was the first time I became aware of even such a project. But I was impressed with the results of the program. Number one, the program already is encouraging high school juniors to take another year of math. And for all of us who have been there and know what kinds of math decisions you make sometimes, simply because you're either tired of taking math or you are a little bit intimidated by it, it's a very important move to putting a student on the path to success in college, and even toward future career choices that that student might make. The results already have meant that more students will take another year of math their senior year in high school. The other bit of good news on this, which I