

\$40 per day. This would increase it to \$50 per day during the time they actually sit and serve and hold hearings in the Equal Opportunity Commission. The financial impact of this is very insignificant. I think if you look in your bill books, the increase if it had been raised to \$70 would have been only a \$3,000 impact. So I am assuming increasing it only from \$40 to \$50 would have an impact of perhaps a little over \$1,000. Having, as an attorney, been before the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission and having cases before them, I can assure you that they do a lot of work in preparation for their meetings when they determine whether there is reasonable cause or not to proceed with a discrimination claim. They have to read a lot of investigatory reports, sometimes legal briefs, and they do all of this before they even get to the hearing, and, of course, they are not compensated directly for the time that they spend in preparation either. The last increase that they got was way back in 1977, when they had an increase to the \$40 per day. It has been 12 years now since they have had an increase. I think a \$10 increase is totally appropriate, and as Senator Coordsen said, it would increase it to an amount that is consistent with what we are paying board members in other types of similar positions. So I would just urge you to advance LB 175.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the advancement of the bill, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the amount we are discussing here is relatively insignificant and I understand that. However, since the comment was made that this amount is comparable to other boards, I want to pursue that a little bit because I can recall back in 1981 or two, when we were first experiencing problems with funds, one of the things that was done, and I do not recall the committee at the moment, was went back and reviewed all of the various commissions that are established and was looking at the wide range of per diem and expenses and the reimbursement that existed, and the number that sticks in my mind collectively was somewhere in the vicinity of \$465,000. And I think, if I remember correctly, a portion of that was General Fund and a portion of it was Cash Funds but, in any event, it was a significant amount. I know that sometime after that I can recall another legislator who made it a personal project, and I recall there was an interim study included to bring about some rationale between various boards. And I honestly do not recall the result of that effort