

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, the committee amendments, frankly, make no significant changes in the intent of the bill. They are clerical in nature and are very technical. With that, I could refer you to the explanation in the book if you don't necessarily go along with that. They correct language in the intent and purpose section. They remove a reference to bachelor of science degree, substitute the term bachelor's degree as opposed to bachelor of science. They clarify that the incentive that Senator Nelson will be explaining in a few minutes applies to associate degrees of nursing as well as others. They are highly technical in nature and do not change the intent of the bill, so I would move the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith, did you wish to speak about the committee amendments? Okay. Senator Nelson, on the committee amendments?

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, those are technical amendments that I believe that I brought to the committee, and I am in full support. I move for the adoption.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Nelson, would you like to talk just about the bill.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 357 is a bill brought to you somewhat patterned after the bill that was introduced last year, 1185, and the things that I learned from that bill, and what this would do, and I would address the...try to help the nursing shortage that we are experiencing through Nebraska, in fact, nationwide, every place, the same problem. My bill would bring incentives to girls...both men and women, to enter first-time nursing, to entice them into the education and let...experience them to the field and then hope that they would continue their education and would be full-time nursing students in Nebraska. LB 357 has three parts to it. It would provide