

Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Barrett, are you going to handle the bill?

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Through the uniqueness of New Horizons for Nebraska, I bring to you today LB 408 at the suggestion of several thousand people across the state who have indicated that there is a need in the state to develop leadership for the future, and LB 408 represents one of the first efforts in that regard. The bill creates an annual youth leadership academy sponsored by the Legislature which, hopefully, will allow participants to learn and to enhance leadership skills. And the bill will also establish the Nebraska Student Exchange Act which, hopefully, will address the perceived bias in this state on a regional basis, perhaps an opportunity for a little better understanding of lifestyles and perspectives in various parts of the state. New Horizons has given us 46 initiatives that we should be examining, and this bill addresses specifically Initiative 1, which was the Legislative Leadership Academy, and Initiative 21, which is again addressing the linkage between, hopefully, rural and urban Nebraska. Again, the bill is a product of a lot of work on the part of a lot of people, and specifically speaks to the need to take care of the future in terms of leadership among our youth. Finally, I would suggest to the body that one of the main concerns of New Horizons is the brain drain. It's been mentioned publicly on numerous occasions and it's my feeling that this bill will also address that particular subject of young people leaving the State of Nebraska. With that, I would hope the body would advance the bill onto Select File. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, then Senator Schimek, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm a co-sponsor of this bill, I'm real happy to be so. I think this is a terrific program and I think we need to get started on some type of a program such as this as soon as we can. This addresses our youth, it addresses the future leaders of tomorrow, and this will definitely help our youth to develop