

March 14, 1989

LB 357A, 357

All those in favor vote aye...all those in favor say aye.  
Opposed nay. It is advanced. LB 357A.

CLERK: 357A, Mr. President, I have no E & R. I have an amendment to the bill from Senator Nelson, however. (Nelson amendment appears on pages 1128-29 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, I didn't get this printed into the Journal. It is an amendment to the original fiscal note and simply what it does is it addresses then the changes that we have made in the bill. I am suffering from the same problem that many of us have in the fiscal note. I certainly appreciate the work that they've done on the bill, and by the provisions of the bill we try to make a cap, we try to make hold the bill down under 500,000 for each and every year. If you will look at my passout on page 2, part 1, will address the total cost of the bill. There is one portion of it, the rural assistance. As I say, I have all due respect for the fiscal office and the fiscal analyst and so on, on this bill, but the number of students that they have used for the rural incentive is...let's see, 150 BSNs, 75 ADN or diploma the first year and 75 LPNs for example. Last year and by our LB 890 study, we have, I believe, 307 projected additional nurses all in Nebraska for 1989 and 1990, 368 new nurses in the State of Nebraska. Using the fiscal note that they are using, they are using a total of 300 nurses for the rural incentive program. I would say it would be a very, very successful program if we were to have that many nurses move to the rural area. If we could only get half or one-third of them I would be more than pleased. So, frankly, it is possible within the realm that if every nurse graduated and every nurse went to the rural area, but you and I know that that will not happen. So I, frankly, in due respect to the fiscal office and so on, I would cut those incentives down at least \$100,000 because we do not have that many nurses graduating and naturally they are not going to be, all of them are going to go in the rural areas. So I do want to mention that to the body. If...I asked them about this and as they explained if there is any money or financial aid left over in the fund, that goes back to the General Fund. It is hard on my bill to call...to have another \$100,000 each year in there that we don't anticipate spending, but again, they are correct. There are...it is possible, but the money will just go back to the General Fund, so with that, it has been amended then to use the higher or the