

get me there in time. I just ask for advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: That's people down here.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Morrissey, I'm sorry.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair and members, I thank Senator Moore and Senator Rogers for opening on my priority bill. I'll give you a brief history. Senator Wesely has gone over it quickly. Last year you passed 865. My predecessor, Senator Remmers and some people from my district, Alan Fankhauser, Peter Beekman, worked pretty hard on that bill and LB 865 of last year brought Nebraska up to speed on the new technology available for emergency medical technicians with the automatic or semiautomatic defibrillators. We then had the problems with the rules and regulations in LB 569 as simply implementation legislation to address this problem. The bill would add technical details to the defibrillator legislation, I said that about 15 times last night and I had it down, but...and the bill also sets out requirements for emergency medical technician-A/D, a new category, provides for competency testing, provides for the issuance and reissuance of certificates, provides for the training curriculum and sets standards for instructors. Paramedics and EMT-Ds are now licensed for operating manual defibrillators. They must take a monthly exam that requires them to recognize heart rhythms read from a strip. The new technology allowed by the automatic defibrillators, the EMT people simply put a patch on the patient and a computer reads the heart rhythms and will or will not allow a shock when appropriate. A heart attack victim has approximately a 40 percent chance of survival with this shock administered. If this shock is not applied within eight minutes, the chances of survival go way down. In my district there is only one town, Humboldt, which is licensed to run the manual defibrillator. That greatly reduces the chance of survival of heart attack victims. I think if you check in your districts you'll find the same type of ratio. Very few people are licensed to use the manual devices. Unless this bill is passed this year, I feel people will continue to needlessly die from heart attacks because the basic life support system for the emergency medical technicians in a state will not allow them to deliver heart shocks using the automatic and semiautomatic defibrillators. Of all the bills that are presented this year, this bill actually