

specific statutory authority. The use of electronic surveillance is an attractive alternative to incarceration. Because the systems are cost-effective they can be expeditiously implemented and maintain public safety. The probationer in Sarpy County, as it was explained in the committee, wears an electronic bracelet which sends a radio signal to a receiver, usually inserted in the telephone. An electronic signal is sent over the phone line whenever the probationer exceeds a certain distance, and when this is a part of the usual work release of the person, or court authorized activity, then that is recorded and simply monitors that activity. There have been no machine failures in Sarpy County in 1988, and it is proved to be a cost-effective measure and also one that can be very rehabilitative when a person is given that alternative to a jail or work release confinement. I urge the passage of LB 220.

SENATOR LANDIS PRESIDING

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Wehrbein is recognized. Your light is on, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I wasn't quite ready as I wanted to be. On this electronic surveillance I missed part of it. But it is the implication, if I understood correctly, that if you can afford to pay, you pay, if you can't afford to pay, it will be furnished for this situation?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes. Actually I have a note here that I can't find that the actual monitoring equipment is already bought, and indeed this can be used through an 800 number all across the state, if they wish to use that alternative.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I need to study this a little more before I ask any sensible questions. But I guess I'm just a little reluctant to go to this. But I'll listen, I guess, more. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. There being no further lights, Senator Pirsch, you have the opportunity to close on LB 220.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, I don't know specifically what your concerns are. This is already used in other states and, of course, in Nebraska. The judges and the correctional institutions like this alternative to confining a person. When