

bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The motion carries, the bill is advanced. Before we proceed to LB 392 and Senator Baack, I'd like to announce that Senator Nelson has a number of guests in the north balcony, 46 fourth graders from Stolley Park School in Grand Island and their teacher. Children, if you'd stand up, we'd like to recognize you and welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you. With that, Mr. Clerk, 392.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 392 was introduced by Senator Baack. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 12, was referred to the Education Committee. They report the bill to General File, Mr. President.

SENATOR LABEDZ PRESIDING

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Madam Chairman and members, LB 392 is a bill that is introduced to require if we're going to issue...as we issue future teacher certificates and administrator certificates it would require those people to complete at least three semester credits in special education. This does not necessarily require that a...that the college of education would provide for a separate course in special education, this requirement could be met by providing some instruction within the present course work dealing with special education. We find now that approximately 90 percent of all the school age children in Nebraska that are identified as handicapped, in one way or another, are educated in the regular classroom. And with this...as a result of this mainstreaming, we are finding that the regular classroom teachers are responsible for a lot of the education for these handicapped students. So what this bill does is it puts us in line with 33 other states that already require this. Our teachers now that are certificated in Nebraska, if they went to have a reciprocal agreement with a number of other states, would not be able to be certified in those states because they do not meet the requirement for special education certification. What it would do...What it does is it says that, if we're going to teach all these children in a regular classroom, then these teachers ought to have some awareness of the special problems that these handicapped students require and some of the special needs that they have in learning the basics that we have in the classroom. So I think