

March 30, 1989

LB 99, 323

LB 99 vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: LB 99 is advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk, LB 323.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 323 was introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee and was reported to General File.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 323 was introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Optometric Association by myself. It basically seeks to reinstate the language that was, at one time, called into question by the Attorney General, in 1987. It adds some language that indicates that testing of optometrists protects the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Nebraska, indicates that new licensees, who seek an optometric license in this state, must take a test which includes all of the relevant areas of the optometric practice. And in so doing that means that anybody who wants an optometric license will have to be able to do all of the scope of practice, including, by the way, the issue of eye drops. Now, there are some individuals who do not now have the training in that area and they are previously licensed by Nebraska. Unless they get a special endorsement, they can't use eye drops. New licensees will have to be able to take a test, including that area in the scope of practice. It does not, in any way, expand the practice of optometry. It's been reviewed by the Nebraska Medical Association, who does not oppose this change. It simply seeks to do that which the Legislature meant to do in 1986, which because of the way it was worded the Attorney General said had some problems to it, and now we go back and give back to the Optometric Board of Examiners the obligations to use these tests for new licensees across the entire breadth of practice for optometrists. I move for the advancement of 323.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the advancement of LB 323.