

March 30, 1989

LB 487A, 488

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: The bill is advanced. We'll move on to LB 488, introduced by the Education Committee. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 488 was introduced by the Education Committee. (Title read.) The bill was read for the first time on January 17. It was referred to the Education Committee. The Education Committee did report the bill to General File, Mr. President.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman Withem, on LB 488.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Landis, members, LB 488 is a bill that amends the Private Vocational Education Authorization Act. Currently, private vocational schools, they've been sometimes referred to as proprietary schools, schools like Lincoln School of Business I guess is an example, some of the various private vocational schools, Universal Technical Institute up in Omaha comes to mind, are currently regulated by the State Department of Education. Last year they put together a task force consisting of the regulators and those schools that are regulated to suggest some changes in the Vocational Education Authorization Act and, again, these are primarily technical types of changes that are being made to bring the act up to date, using the term, they prefer the term the state of art, term of art right now I guess is postsecondary career schools as opposed to private vocational schools. This bill clarifies that private colleges and universities offering baccalaureate level degrees are exempt from the act. That wasn't necessarily clear before. This eliminates the restriction on establishing rules more stringent than those specified in the act. The department can make more stringent rules if it so desires. Senator Baack may help himself to one of my French fries if he desires. Specifies that the accreditation by a number of listed accrediting agencies which will be accepted as meeting the minimum standards. Changes the provisions governing branch facilities, renames what branch facilities are and it goes on, eliminates grandfather clause, an obsolete grandfather clause. Basically it's a good bill. The relationship between these private vocational schools and the department and our public schools sometimes gets a little bit strained, but this bill is one that I think will improve that relationship. It's a bill