

Senator Pirsch, on the bill.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. LB 330 is a restraining order revision. In 1978, Nebraska passed legislation to assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining temporary restraining orders. These orders are extremely necessary for protection for many battered persons. Nebraska's statute needs to be modified in order to provide the protection that was originally intended in this legislation. In its present form, these orders are not readily available and are rarely enforced. Existing policies, as reflected in the state statutes, prevent appropriate law enforcement response and offer little to no protection to victims of domestic violence. Law enforcement personnel, public and private attorneys, victims and representatives of local Domestic Violence and Victim Witness Programs have met several times over these past few months to suggest changes. Such changes have been successfully implemented in many other states and some are South Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming and Iowa. We will have, with 330, easier availability of protection orders. It will also allow enforcement of those protection orders so everyone involved knows that that protection order shall be followed through by law enforcement. There is also penalties for violations as the committee amendments also helped. With this easy availability we would ensure that filing fees and service costs would be waived if the applicant does not have the financial resources to pay for these costs. The enforcement does have a limited time of one year and the law enforcement is required to arrest if probable cause for the violation of that order exists. And it would be easily available in the District Clerk's office and available for law enforcement to check. With that, I urge the passage of LB 330.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, Senator Pirsch did a good job in defining the parameters of LB 330. On your desk you have a handout, actually a little booklet entitled "Working Together Toward a Violence Free Future" and on the first page of that, for those of you that are looking through and trying to figure out the...what the guts of LB 330 actually consists of, the first page gives a very, very thorough and I think a good review of what's within LB 330. LB 330, for the most part, is trying to correct a situation that has developed, certainly unintentionally, but