

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the suspension of the rules. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Requires 30 votes. We're voting on the suspension of the rules. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the suspension of the germaneness rule.

PRESIDENT: The rules are suspended. Now we're back to the bill. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I appreciate that last vote. I would ask you if you would please, the amendment that you have before you is LB 129. If you would open your bill books to that bill, probably the best explanation that I can give is to ask you to look at the explanation from committee counsel for the Transportation Committee and also the fiscal note that accompanies the bill. It explains the dual party relay system and how it would operate. Currently in Nebraska there are two systems that are in place. The City of Omaha and the City of Lincoln have this system that allows those folks who are hearing impaired or speech impaired to basically call in, use a device that is known as a TDD device, that I happen to have here, and what they do is they place their phone cradle into this machine. And then the machine will just print out what the message is so those individuals who cannot hear or cannot speak in a manner that is audible for other individuals can just read what the message is. And it's unique, it is what...I think the things that we talk about technology should be doing and allow folks who have a handicap to basically function no different than you and I. We often times take for granted the simple operation of a telephone and forget that Alexander Graham Bell, when he was inventing the machine, was doing it as a way to help those who were hearing impaired. The telephone industry is very supportive of the measure. A relay system is one that has, I think, currently in place in about 16 states. And, as I mentioned in my opening in the rule suspension, is currently in the process of coming down some mandate from the federal government in the discrimination bill that came out of the Senate and the House, so that it is just a matter of time before these relay systems will be required to be in place. By doing it on a statewide basis I think we accomplish a number of things. Most importantly is we have a uniform system across the state that provides 24-hour service,