

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the...or Madam President, I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 551.

SENATOR LABEDZ: All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. The amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Lynch. Senator, this is the one, AM2832, I understand you wish to withdraw this amendment.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lynch would move to amend. Senator, I have your amendment that is on Journal page 1445 in front of me.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, this amendment changes the dollar amounts and the fee schedules, it also develops an operative date. Just to refresh your memory for just a minute, in Nebraska we have medical laboratories in nursing homes, hospitals, doctors clinics and other areas. At the present time they are not certified. Within the next two years the possibility exists that there will be some federal certification required. And the fees for those certifications could range as high...could range in the thousands of dollars. In Nebraska we estimate that close to \$300 million, \$300 million is spent, through medical laboratories, for tests. Tests are important, because they determine what kind of sickness you have. And unless the tests are correct and accurate and true, of course, the wrong prognosis can be developed. Because of that the feds will get into the act. But it's important for us in Nebraska to have a chance to pre-empt some of what might happen with our own good sense, I think, and that was the purpose for this legislation. This amendment changes from the original legislation a fee schedule which was seven to eight hundred dollars to four hundred to eight hundred dollars. Obviously, there are some laboratories that do very little testing, as some that are very comprehensive and, in fact, do almost every test. It also provides an operative date of