

amendments. I think it mostly are technical or procedural changes that make the administration of the act easier for individuals that were concerned about it and does bring a number of interested groups in support of the legislation. I would support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek, do you wish to address the committee amendments? Does anyone else wish to address the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Chizek? Closing is waived. We will vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, would you like to open on the bill itself?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members of the body, I will open on LB 825, the Nebraska Fair Housing Act. Along with my cosponsors, Senator Schimek and Senator Chambers, we're pleased to bring this legislation to you. We had similar legislation looked at last year, LB 1113. It was advanced by Judiciary Committee, a committee priority last year, but was stuck on Select File as a result of the backlog last year. We do need very much to pass this legislation this year. It is the result of some federal mandates that were passed in 1988 and 1990. The 1988 legislation passed by the Congress, amended Title 8 of the Civil Rights Act in 1968. Title 8 is the Fair Housing Act, the Federal Fair Housing Act, and does two things primarily. It stops the discrimination in housing against families with children and it stops the discrimination in housing against people who are physically or mentally disabled. In both cases, I think they are very worthy and important goals. In the first case, we have had incidents over the years of children...I mean, families with children not being able to get apartments or housing situations for some restrictions placed by landlords or others who did not wish to have children in an apartment complex or in a neighborhood setting, we found that that puts an added burden on families and we certainly want to be, I would think, pro-family in this state and this nation and we would no longer allow that sort of discrimination to continue. In addition, we have seen firsthand discrimination