

February 7, 1992 LB 933, 1087

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, this amendment is, in fact, LB 1087, which was heard by the Urban Affairs Committee and passed out unanimously, 7 to nothing. There was no opponents to the legislation in committee, and it's the last of the three pieces of legislation that deal with handicapped parking. We owe a deep debt and thank you to the Retail Merchants Association which helped us put this legislation together. One of the most serious problems with handicapped parking has always been the ability to enforce in a reasonable way handicapped parking facilities on private property. The law enforcement officers always were in a dilemma, they shouldn't, and they were uncomfortable in having to come on private property without real authority, and it shouldn't be expected that they would. What this legislation simply did was to provide that authority. It also helped as far as the retail merchants were concerned because the merchants, God bless them, were always asked, or were asked on a number of occasions by people who were irritated because the handicapped parking was being used illegally and unfairly, and asked to interfere and intercede in the handicapped person's behalf, and it put that store manager and that shopping center owner in a most difficult position. Well, now the way this reads is someone, not the store manager, but anyone can simply ask for help in enforcing any violation of the handicapped parking on private property. The retail merchants, of course, have endorsed this legislation, in fact, even went further than that. They are developing brochures that can be handed out and they are developing placards that will be put up on the walls of all supermarkets and stores of those who work with Retail Merchants Association advising people about the appropriate use for handicapped parking. Law enforcement officers are also grateful for this kind of legislation, because in the absence of authority in the past, they were also accused of not being willing to cooperate. We would be grateful if this could be amended into Senator Nelson's LB 933, and I am grateful to Senator Nelson for her being willing to accept it as part of the amendment, and I am very confident that it is obviously germane, most appropriate. And if we don't do it now, simply put, given the limited time we have in this session, it might not be considered and it would be most important with the good legislation by Senator Nelson that this be an integral part of it and we would be grateful for your support.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Hartnett,