

February 10, 1992 LB 308

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now go to the bill as amended. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, LB 308 would help provide for all of us how almost 3,200 people per year are affected by head injuries that are...that happen in a number and a variety of different ways. Provides that the Department of Health maintain a registry. It also provides for confidentiality and to make sure that our confidentiality clauses in this piece of legislation were, in fact, compatible with those already established, and confirmed as reasonable, under the Cancer Registry, were taken directly from Sections 7 and 8, out of the Cancer Registry. Goal of the bill is simply to identify the number of head injuries in Nebraska and the cause, so then more appropriate services, hopefully, can be developed when possible and preventive measures taken as much as possible. The Department of Health will maintain the registry and the duties will be determined later by some rules and regs by the Department of Health. The language that did...saw some concern from some of the professionals was stricken. We agreed that it may have been too inclusive. It would have been nice to have that language, but we understand for reporting purposes the problems that it may have caused to providers. It provides that physicians and psychologists should report within 30 days, that hospitals should report within 30 days after discharge, and the nursing homes to report twice a year regarding the progress of those folks who have head injuries and in nursing homes. It also provides not only the confidentiality, but immunity for civil and criminal liability for those professionals, and also for those institutions involved in this reporting. There are no new services required by the departments as a result of this legislation, and it has a sunset in it, which was ten years. We left it in as it was accomplished, so the sunset would be the year 2001. We simply ask for your support for this because, unless we really know the extent of these kinds of unique disabilities, it's hard for not only families and those affected with head injuries, but also the state to cope with the need, and also it would also provide for those of us in state government to understand the head injury dilemma, as it may or may not exist, and the responsibility we hopefully can have in the future to have head injury service needs be met and a priority be established, and