

March 30, 1995      LB 187, 372, 601

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 187 advances. LB 601.

CLERK: LB 601, a bill introduced by Senator Bohlke. (Read title.) The bill was introduced in January, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, members, SPRE is a federally mandated program aimed at assuring a certain level of quality in our postsecondary institutions that receive federal money, particularly through student financial aid. The Coordinating Commission for postsecondary education is the Nebraska SPRE agency. Changing the definition for professional programs allows the institutions to avoid being tested on certain criteria if a SPRE review of the institution is triggered. There is nothing to mandate the institutions meet the criteria unless the SPRE review is triggered. The criteria that are avoided deal with the provision of information regarding the job market and state licensure requirements. Many courses of study lead to careers that are considered professional but are not specifically tailored to one certain career path that is easily analyzed regarding job markets and license requirements.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thanks, Senator Bohlke. Are there any further individuals wishing to debate this bill? Senator Bohlke, the membership would be delighted to hear a closing from you on this piece of legislation.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption of this bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you very much. The question is, shall LB 601 be advanced? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 601.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, LB 372. I do not see Senator Chambers in the body. Is he here or is there anybody authorized to handle his bill? Committee amendments, Mr. Clerk.