

protected and for that reason it does shift it over to the protection in that area. With that I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. Be happy to answer any questions regarding the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Are you through or did you want to speak a little longer or...? Senator Wehrbein, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I support the committee amendments. It wasn't my intention to complicate this bill and I think this is a reasonable approach that the committee used. They understand the interconnections between assaults on persons and animals in this case better and puts it in balance so I accept the committee amendments and I will get more in detail on the need for the bill when it's time to open on the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein, thank you. No further discussion on the committee amendments? Any closing, Senator Lindsay? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wehrbein, to open.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, this is on LB 283 as you can see. I brought this bill, it was brought to my attention, the increasing use of police dogs particularly and also police horses, I think that's only in Omaha at this point, about the need to try to do a little bit more protection for these animals in the pursuit of their job. As you probably recognize they are a subject of intense training, expensive training, widely used now across the State of Nebraska. The patrol has I don't know whether 14 or 16 at this time. Some counties have them and I really don't know how many the counties have, but it seemed to me that there needed to be some more protection for them because the animals tend to be teased, harassed, taunted, things like that that go far beyond what an ordinary treatment of an animal should be. It amounts to cruelty and because I felt that they were acting in the performance of duty, protecting the property and human life in