

February 22, 1996 LB 256A, 645

favor vote aye. Opposed. It is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB...would announce to the body that Senator Bernard-Stevens is absent today. He has requested that we pass over LB 1141 and 1141A. Mr. Clerk, LB 645.

CLERK: LB 645, Senator Maurstad, I have E & R first of all, Senator.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Mr. President, I'd move to adopt the E & R amendments to LB 645.

SPEAKER WITHEM: All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed. They are adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have to the bill this morning is by Senator Witek. Senator, AM2958. (See page 654 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker and members of the body, this amendment that I have to 645, which is my priority bill this year, discusses putting together a task force to decide whether we need and how we would go about implementing community notification programs. I have talked to a lot of people about it. They are very supportive of the idea. However, this bill has several amendments to it and I would like to see it pass, hopefully today on Select File, and get it moving. It's been in the Legislature for two years now, this issue. We are only one of three states who have not passed forward the sex offender registration and I'd like to see that happen as quickly as possible. There are a lot of people out in Nebraska waiting and watching for this to happen. So I don't wish to complicate the bill or to bring in issues that, that might possibly take up more time and confuse some of the people who would be supportive of the bill, of the registration idea of the bill, but may have some misgivings about forming a task force on community notification. I think that we should be doing something like that, that we should be looking at whether we need community notification, it is implemented in seventeen states at this time, whether we, whether we have support for doing that and how we would go about doing that. But I don't want to complicate 645 at this time so I will be pulling this amendment and I hope to bring back something next year to