

February 26, 1996 LB 1055

SENATOR SCHMITT: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you.

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

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmitt to open on his bill.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, good morning, Madam President and colleagues. I guess we already had quite a bit of discussion on the bill, so.... But, with that, the purpose of LB 1055, as amended, is to establish a minimum firearm proficiency standard for all law enforcement officers in the state. Nebraska has no statutory requirement on continuing firearms training for active law enforcement officers. Some law enforcement agencies require firearms training as departmental policy, particularly larger agencies such as Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Lancaster County, Douglas County, and many more of the departments of considerable size, along with the State Patrol, but most don't. The potential for civil liability and lawsuit due to inadequate training is very real these days, even in rural counties and small towns. Firearms proficiency is one area where many local law enforcement agencies are lax. LB 1055 would require all law enforcement officers in the state to qualify once per calendar year on a firearms shooting course approved by the Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center. The qualifications must be conducted by a qualified firearms instructor, according to training center rules and regs. Law enforcement agencies will be allowed to share training and instructors. The bill also allows members of the Nebraska Association of Law Enforcement Firearm Instructors to conduct qualifications at no cost to the agencies. The requirement for minimum firearm qualifications are 50 rounds of ammunition fired at the FBI "Q" target, scoring in pass/fail with 70 percent as the passing score. Law enforcement agency...each law enforcement agency will be required to maintain a firearms qualification register with current information on each officer's firearms status. A copy of the register will also be sent, by each agency, to the Law Enforcement Training Center. Requiring each law enforcement officer to fire his service weapon every calendar year in the qualification process will provide the officer to a practical