

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 8, 1999 LB 366, 379

somebody who's not quite a lawyer is a paralegal. Somebody not quite up to what it takes to be in a given profession is a paraprofessional. Law enforcement persons are called paralegals. I'd like to ask Senator Suttle a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Suttle, would you yield?

SENATOR SUTTLE: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Suttle, would this person be called a parapsychologist? (Laughter.) Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Seeing no lights, Senator Suttle, you're recognized to close on LB 366. Senator Suttle waives closing. The motion before us is the advancement of LB 366 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 366.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 366 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 379.

CLERK: (LB) 379, Mr. President, by Senator Dierks. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on LB 379.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 379 is about the role of physician assistants and their ability to prescribe controlled substances. LB 379 prevents the disruption of essential healthcare services currently provided by physician assistants. The bill is needed because of a change of interpretation of state statutes at the federal level. Prior to 1998, the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, interpreted Nebraska law as permitting physician assistants to write prescriptions as agents of the sponsoring physician. In 1998, however, the DEA concluded that, under the