

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

March 8, 1999

LB 498

bill briefly, and then we will recognize Senator Jensen to do likewise on the committee amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. This, if you recall the discussion that we had before, is the friendly shock bill. This is a bill that is designed to make automatic defibrillators, external defibrillators, much more available in our state for assistance to individuals who are suffering heart attacks where there is an arrhythmia. The devices, as I've indicated before, have become very sophisticated. The price has dropped considerably and they are, quite frankly, usable now outside of a hospital setting, outside of what you would think is an ambulance setting with a minimum of training and with assurances that the device is being maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's standards, and those are the two things that the bill requires before you could use one of the devices and be eligible for the kind of limited immunity that is provided for in the bill. Now there were questions when we had the discussion before about the immunity provisions. I have discussed those with several senators, and I think we've resolved their questions. The immunity that physicians or the lack of immunity that physicians might have or emergency medical care providers, certificated emergency medical care providers, is not affected by this bill. Those are affected by other provisions in state statute. This, the provisions in this bill are applicable only to those people who are not certificated or licensed and still have the opportunity to use an AED after they've received appropriate training that will be prescribed by rule and regulation through Health and Human Services. They are very effective in assisting individuals who have that particular kind of a heart attack that is the result of an arrhythmia. They will, I am quite sure, save lives if they are made widely available across the state of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Jensen, on the committee amendments, a brief introduction.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. President, members of the body, the committee amendments really replace Section 1 of the bill, and there are some definition in there on...from the original bill, it adds a definition of health care facility,