

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 241

title.) The bill was introduced on January 11, referred to the Health Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Engel, you're recognized to open.

**SENATOR ENGEL:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise, as Chair of the Program Evaluation Committee, in the support of LB 241. LB 241 was introduced to implement two recommendations of the Program Evaluation Committee regarding the state-funded Family Practice Residency Programs, and an evaluation of programs that give incentives to health care providers to practice in underserved areas of the state. The Health and Human Services Committee voted 6-0 to advance LB 241, and as stated, there were no opponents to the bill or there are no amendments on the bill. While I was not chair of the committee at the time of the evaluation, I am currently serving in that capacity. LB 241 deals with two family practice residency funding programs, one administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the other by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Rural Health. LB 241 does two things. It requires UNMC and the Office of Rural Health to find out from the institutions requesting funding whether or not they are receiving funds from the other programs. LB 241 also caps the number of residency programs to nine that can be funded through the Office of Rural Health. The program has been funded at the rate of 300,000 per year, and it's estimated this amount would fund no more than nine residency positions. Again, LB 241 would implement these two recommendations by the Program Evaluation Committee as a result of the evaluation conducted in 1998. I'll be glad to answer any questions you or members of the body may have, and I encourage you to advance LB 241 to Select File. Thank you.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Wehrbein.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Mr. President and members of the body, I just also want to rise to support Senator Engel's bill. It's the result of work of the Performance Evaluation Committee a couple of years ago, led to some readjustments in the program, which I think was appropriate. It's, once again, I think the work of the Performance Evaluation Committee has brought out some areas