

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 242

LB 242 with the adopted committee amendments to Select File.
Thank you for your time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments. (Standing Committee amendment AM0516 is found on page 829 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR JENSEN: (Microphone not activated immediately.) ...Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the committee amendment does two things. It requires money remaining in the Rural Health Opportunities Loan Pool Fund and the money credited to the fund after the effective date of this bill to be transferred to the Rural Health Professional Incentive Fund. In essence then the committee recommends that the money continue to be used for healthcare in rural Nebraska, and it also makes nursing and nursing education programs eligible under both the student loan and the student loan repayment programs of the Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act. There is an amendment to the committee amendment that I have offered that will limit somewhat the committee amendment, and I'd be glad to go into that amendment at this time, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Senator Jensen offers (AM)1066, Mr. President. (AM1066 is found on page 1296 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment only adds nurses to the student loan repayment program and not the student loan programs of the Rural Health Act. Right now, the student loan program is only reserved for physicians and physician assistants, and there have been concerns raised by the rationale and justification for adding nurses to that program. The amendment to the committee amendment has been agreed to by the Nebraska Nurses Association and Senator Byars, who originally brought this part of the committee amendment to us. I would urge adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments and advancement of the bill.