

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

May 11, 1999 LB 147, 179A, 652, 863
 LR 124, 125

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. An amendment by Senator Thompson to LB 652; Senator Hilgert, an amendment to LB 179A.

Mr. President, a reference report on a gubernatorial appointment. Your Committee on Natural Resources reports LB 863 to General File with amendments. And two study resolutions, Mr. President: LR 124 by Senator Thompson; LR 125 by Senator Kristensen. Both of those will be referred to the Board. That's all that I have at this time. (Legislative Journal pages 1958-1964.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB 147.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 147, a bill originally introduced by Senator Thompson and others. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0423, Legislative Journal page 753.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. To open on LB 147, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I would first like to thank Senator Patrick Bourne, who made this his priority bill, and I'm very pleased that we have an opportunity to discuss this issue today. As of April 28th, 1999, 62,762 people nationally were on a waiting list for organ transplant; over 400 are here in Nebraska. Twenty percent of those patients will die while waiting for a transplant. In the last 10 years the number of cadaveric organ donors has remained steady at about 4,500 to 5,000 per year. Last year, Nebraska had only 32 such donors. There is a potential for 15 to 20 thousand such donors nationally per year. Obviously, there's a significant disparity between the number of potential organ donors and the number of families who actually choose to make this decision. One of the reasons is that very few people have actually talked to their families about it and, at a time of tragedy, families under...are under tremendous stress and it's a very difficult decision to make at that time. Last fall, the Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing in Omaha and toured the transplants, the new Lied