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LB 147

Transplant Center, and talked about issues of transplants. One of the people at the meeting wrote to me and another one during the discussion at that meeting offered some ideas, and this bill is a collaboration of ideas from people who work daily in the area, who were kind enough to sit down with me and educate me about these issues and help develop this bill. Their lessons to me were that the best thing we can do as a state is to encourage greater public education, first of all, of the importance of considering being an organ donor and, second, of the importance of telling your family what your wishes are. The bill itself is quite simple. What it does is it allows people, when they are renewing their driver's license or obtaining their driver's license, at that portion of the process where they are asked about organ donation that they would also be given an opportunity to contribute, voluntarily, \$1 to an Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness and Education Fund. This is strictly a voluntary donation. At the present time the way the bill is constructed, of each dollar, five cents would go to the county that collected it. In a discussion with Senator Stuhr this morning, who's been in discussion with the president of the Treasurers Association, there may be an opportunity to eliminate this and, on Select File, Senator Stuhr, in collaboration with the County Officials Association, may be back with a suggested amendment on this. We just talked to them today and really haven't had time to develop that, but there's the potential that all hundred percent would go into the fund. The fund would be used for education and awareness activities. Currently, there are a number of organizations which do some types of awareness programs and have PSAs and other ways to get the information out, but most of these organizations don't have the resources to be able to do this comprehensively to make sure it's available throughout the state, to take a...ways and work strategically with groups throughout the state. And this fund, this voluntary fund, would provide a way to channel some resources to those organizations. Currently, there is a statewide group called the Organ and Tissue Donor Task Force of Nebraska and it is made up, and on the pink sheet here it has the names of all the people who are associated with that. They include: Alegent Health Bergan Mercy and Alegent Health Immanuel Medical Center; the American Red Cross; Bryan LGH Medical Center; Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings; Methodist Hospital; Nebraska Health Systems; Saint Joseph Hospital; Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska; the