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LB 147

Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society Alliance; the National Kidney Foundation; the Nebraska Organ Retrieval System, Incorporated; and the New Hearts, which is a group of people who've received heart transplants. They were the group whose legislative committee I was eventually connected to who helped develop this bill. This bill, with an amendment that will be presented by Senator Bromm, will change the date of implementation to January 1st of 2000, thus, eliminating the need to reprint current forms. So there will be no cost to adopting this bill. It will set up a cash fund for the purpose of distributing the funds. Looking at what's happening in other states, this is legislation that has already been enacted in Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. In Colorado, about 20 percent of the people who renew their driver's license or obtain their driver's license for the first time donate the dollar. If that holds true in Nebraska, we would have about \$50,000 per year to be able to use for this purpose. The bill, as it is written, authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to administer the program, but the intent that I have with this legislation is that we use a statewide organization, such as the Organ and Tissue Donor Task Force of Nebraska, to implement this legislation. The other states have two methods of taking care of the allocation of the funding. Either they've given it to a specific group, an example is in Colorado where it goes specifically to the Transplant Council of the Rockies, which is similar to the group in Nebraska, or it goes...a new commission was created and people appointed by various methods, I suppose usually by the Governor, that would meet and decide how the funds were disbursed. In an effort not to duplicate having the same people who are already involved in this be reappointed through a state process creating administrative costs for the state, not only for the group but also to administer the funds, I propose in the bill that we allocate this funding to the Department of Health and Human Services. They have the ability to contract with a group, such as the Organ and Tissue Donor Task Force of Nebraska. That would eliminate administrative costs of granting out the money, monitoring the money. This group already has its own staff that can do that, and standing committees that can handle that, and that would eliminate another need for yet another commission to be created in the state. The ability to do that constitutionally, to have named a specific group, was