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LB 147

not something that we could do with this bill. So it's merely intent that I mention this, that that's a logical group that could handle this for the state, thus eliminating a lot of work in the Department of Health and Human Services or some work in administering the funds because it could be done by this group that already has the staff that can do that. It's estimated that a new patient is added to the national waiting list every 16 minutes, while every 11 minutes another patient on the list dies. I hope that by enacting this law we can support those people who are waiting for the call for an organ donation and encourage more Nebraskans to consider this an option and discuss this with their families. And I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Bourne.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Thompson. I decided to prioritize this bill because it recently came to my attention that...of the great shortage of transplantable organs. Here in Nebraska there are more than 400 people on waiting lists for various organs and, of the 400, 80 of them will die while they are on the transplant list because there is such a shortage of organs. I think if we...we pass this checkoff, this education fund, that people will become educated and realize how important this project is. It costs very little in tax dollars. It's...it's totally a checkoff and I think it will go a long ways towards educating people how important it is to donate organs. I appreciate your support.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Bromm, on the committee amendments to LB 147.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. We have a very...very, very brief amendment the committee wished to offer in order to make the bill perhaps a little more economical, a little more workable. It simply adds a Section 5 to the bill indicating that this act will become operative on January 1, 2000, and that will save some costs and some reprinting of forms and so forth, and so that's...that's all the amendment does. I would like to express my support, while I have the microphone, for the bill. I thank Senator Thompson for bringing the bill, and Senator Bourne for making it his priority. We had an