

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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time line for us, real quickly, as far as what is expected of the hospitals?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Byars?

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Yes, we are giving them a period of over three years, almost four years to be able to implement newborn hearing screening within the birthing facility. The bill has the E clause on it in order to get the Department of Health and Human Services started on doing the...establishing the tracking system and getting online with their data processing system. But it will just be a very gradual thing through almost four years. They'll have until December of 2003 to comply. So it's...we've tried to be as generous with time as we possibly could.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you very much. I just wanted to share also a quick story. As a former teacher, talking about the importance of hearing and having a student, that I was unaware was hard of hearing, placed in the back of the room, and didn't realize until we had a conference that this student was having difficulty. As soon as we moved her, of course, she was able to do exceptionally better in her class work, which I think points out that the earlier that we can detect these losses, the very better we are, all of us, as citizens in Nebraska to help these students. And also echoing, it is a preventive care, which I think in the long run saves money, so certainly support the amendments and am supporting the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. We are discussing the committee amendments to LB 950. There are no further lights. Senator Jensen, would you like to close on the committee amendments? Senator Jensen waives closing. The question before the body is, shall the committee amendments be adopted to LB 950? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item to the bill.