

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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factor it in somewhere around 7 to 8 thousand. But we're told by the hospitals and by audiologists that adequate equipment for this noninvasive testing can be purchased now for \$3,500 to \$4,000.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I'll speak more on the bill later...the amendment; I just wanted to get that in at this point. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Jensen, on the amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. As you might have noticed, I voted against this bill as it came to the floor, and the reason being is, there was a mandated section in the bill. Senator Byars has been very cooperative and moved that out through this amendment, and so I can speak in favor of the bill and of this amendment. I think it's a good solution. As I mentioned last week, maybe some of you didn't hear, by the end of this year, 77.4 percent of all children born will already receive hearing testing. And so we're not talking about a large number, however those hospitals that are not providing it at the present time are some of those rural hospitals. And there will be an expense there. However, I think that in the birthing rooms that you will...and birthing care, you will see more and more of the testing being done. Of the required testing, PKU and some of the other ones, there is more prevalence of hearing loss than almost any of the other testing that we do in the birthing of a child. So with that, I just wanted to let the body know that I, with that mandated section now removed, I can support the bill and would urge also adoption by my fellow colleagues. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Byars, there are no further lights on, did you wish to close on your amendment? Senator Byars waives closing. The question before the body is, shall AM2343 be adopted to LB 950? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Byars' amendment.