

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 2, 2000

LB 923

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 923, a bill by Senator Hartnett. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of this year, referred to the Health Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hartnett, you're recognized to open on LB 923.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, this act deals with the licensure of physician assistants. One of the requirements for qualifying to receive a license as a physician assistant is that the person has graduated from a program approved by accrediting body. Till 1990...till 1994, the only accrediting body for these program was the Council on Allied Health Education and Accreditation. In 1994, this was transferred to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. When the statutes were amended in 1996, the reference to the old accreditation, Council on Health Education, was deleted. Last fall, when the physician assistant regulation was being reviewed, the unintended effect of this amendment was discovered. Any person who graduated from a program that was accredited prior to 1994 was technically ineligible to receive a Nebraska license. This simply clarifies that anybody that has graduated from a...a program that was accredited either by either of these organizations would be able to practice as a physician assistant.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Chambers, on the...on the advancement of LB 923.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I listened closely, I promise you that I did, and I don't know what this bill does. So I'm going to peruse it during my time to look at the bill, and I hadn't had the chance to look at it before, but it seems that some changes are not too consequential. For example, the phraseology "shall mean" will be stricken and the word "means" would be inserted, which is not really a substantive change, and that takes place in several locations in the bill. In fact, I have to ask Senator Hartnett a question.