

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

March 7, 2000

LB 1101

introduced.) Mr. Clerk, General File.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1101 was introduced by Senator Aguilar and a number of others. (Read title.) Bill was read for the first time on January 10th, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized to open on LB 1101.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise today as the introducer of LB 1101, the Nebraska Senior Companion Program Act, and to offer my support for this bill. Before introducing any bill, each of us ask ourselves, for what purpose am I submitting this bill. This question generally lingers around the issue of what good does this bill bring about or how will the bill affect the state and my constituents. My introduction of LB 1101 has no difference. Today you will be presented with several reasons why this bill should be advanced to Select File: the fact that it is fiscally responsible choice; the fact that it will utilize and, in turn, honor the knowledge and skills possessed by this state's seniors; the fact that it is a time-proven successful program that has been in existence for over 25 years; the fact that the state program can be implemented almost seamlessly with a majority of funds going directly to help the state's seniors. Each of these in and of themselves would be reason enough, however, none of these reasons represented my sole motivation for introducing LB 1101. Why did I introduce the Nebraska Senior Companion Program Act? I introduced this bill because it allows seniors to have the dignity of being able to choose to stay in their own homes for as long as it is reasonable and safe to do so. Each of us here today wants to be able to stay in our own home. We want our parents, our grandparents and, when the tough times come, our spouses to be able to stay in their own homes. The Nebraska Companion Program will provide this option to seniors. Each of you should have received a bright yellow handout here on the floor this morning listing several important facts about the Companion Program. As I discuss some of the statistics and figures related to this program with you this morning, please refer to this document. Hopefully, it will