

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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self-supporting, employed, tax paying citizens. It is relevant to point out that Nebraska currently ranks low in job placement for blind people. We believe this is partly due to the constraints of having the agency serving the blind imbedded in an umbrella like the Department of Health and Human Services. In such a system, the blind, who are low incidence disability group, get lost in the shuffle. Please let me emphasize that the consumers, parents of blind children, the professional on the field of the blind, and the private sector are in support of LB 352. Thus, people who know and care about the blind are asking your support to change what it means to be blind in Nebraska. With that, Mr. President, I would release the rest of my time to Senator Crosby, if she would wish to use it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Tyson, on the advancement of LB 352.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President. The fa...I want to call your attention to the fact sheet that was passed out before and I am going to quote the...I'm going to read the last paragraph of it: Health and Human Services is able to claim an additional \$681,568 in federal funds, Nebraska, for the support provided to Rehabilitation Services to the Visually Impaired by existing management. Human resources, budgeting, finance, accounting and mail distribution and support functions would take an additional \$170,392 in state funds to continue this federal match of an independent commission structure. Now turning then to the memo to Senator Crosby from C.K. Duryea, I would...the following is a partial list of potential, potential central service costs by agency and list of agencies that will likely, likely, maybe, could be, provide indirect support to the Commission for the Blind. And then we have Central Mail/Copy Services, Central Printing, Central Stores, Central Data Processing, Communications. You all have this. You can look at it, the whole long list, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And they will do so by standing in queue waiting for the prioritization of their requirements by the people listed here, no certainty, no nothing. I would mention something else and that is it has been suggested that, if this doesn't work out, we can always revisit this. No, we cannot. The committee amendments provided for a