

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

April 8, 2003

LB 513

that's wrong. It makes no sense for this Legislature to give the public the impression that we are addressing through legislation a real, existing problem on the university campus, not just UNL, the campuses of postsecondary educational institutions that have student housing. No cases were found in those areas, but cases were found other places. Yet, those who don't live in student housing do not even get this information, under Senator Byars' bill. My amendment would say that this information is given to all enrolled students. All of them. If the simple expedient of washing one's hands can prevent one from coming down with a disease that is always terminal, we should give that information to everybody. And that's what this information requires us to do, if it has the validity and value that Senator Byars wants us to believe. I'm not going to let go of this bill. Senator Byars has persuaded me that education may be of value. Now, I don't know whether it's necessary to mandate statutorily that all the postsecondary educational institutions give the information. But I'll give him a pass on that, and accept the argument that if we do not mandate that this information be given, it will not be given. These institutions, other than the state colleges, will not give this information if not mandated. Why do I say other than the state colleges? Because, based on this fiscal note, the last sentence declares, on the portion that was provided by the state colleges, quote, the current practices at the Nebraska state colleges already conform to the proposed requirements, unquote, of LB 513. Say that this information won't be given if not mandated. It shows not very much confidence in the university. And people have a reason for lacking confidence, for mistrusting the university. Whatever their reasoning, I'm willing to put into statute the mandate that we give this information. I'd like to ask Senator Byars a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars, will you yield?

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Byars, if that...we're talking about that Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Is that what it's called, that SARS, that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome?