

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

April 30, 2003      LB 799

as I recall. So I am going to talk about the bill. This has to do with the Vietnam War, a definition of veterans of Vietnam War area. This adds very important clarification and I am going to read some...for some comments that I had submitted: Several years ago the federal Veterans Administration expanded the Vietnam War dates from August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, to February 28, 1961, through May 7 of 1975, but added only those who served in the Republic of Vietnam for the period of February 28, 1961, to August 5, 1964. This was done to recognize those who served in an advisory capacity in Vietnam prior to the actual Vietnam War dates. Two years ago, Nebraska statutes were changed to conform to the federal definition by extending the eligibility date back to the February 28, 1961, but it failed to also limit eligibility at that time to those who served in the Republic of Vietnam. This was called to the attention of H & HS when the Veterans Administration denied per diem reimbursement for a recently admitted resident of one of our veterans' homes. This person had served in the military between '61 and '64, but did not serve in Vietnam. When a veteran meets all of the federal definitional requirements, federal Veterans Administration will pay his or her medication costs and will pay H & HS a per diem for the care received in a veterans' home. And without these changes in this bill, the state will be required to accept veterans for homes. We will receive neither the VA per diem nor payment for their medication by the VA. And so this is a financial issue. By changing this definition, it will help the state meet its obligations using federal funds, and I will urge your adoption of this bill. And as I said, the amendment, I believe, is only the E clause which I assume you're ready to take up.

**SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING**

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk, is there anything further?

**CLERK:** Mr. President, there are Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendments.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek to open on the committee amendments.