

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

May 24, 2005

LB 227, 256

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 227 advances. Mr. Clerk, next bill is LB 256.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 256, a bill by Senator Price. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to Health and Human Services, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0542, Legislative Journal page 745.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Price, to open on LB 256.

SENATOR PRICE: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. LB 256 restructures the board governance of advanced practice registered nurses by creating one standard for their regulation under a single board. This type of umbrella legislation is standard across the country and exists in almost every state. It represents a consensus of advanced practice nurses across Nebraska and the United States. Different drafts of LB 256 have been presented to the Health and Human Services Committee many times over the years, but it has never made it to the floor until this year. The bill has been revised several times and now has the support of all groups involved, including the Nebraska Medical Association which has opposed the bill in the past. LB 256 establishes the free-standing advanced practice registered nurse board. This board will oversee the licensing and scope of practice for the four advanced nursing certifications which include clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists and nurse practitioners. This amendment does not intend to change the scope of practice for any nursing specialty. As you can see, this bill is over 100 pages long and it is really quite simple though. First of those...first of all for you who are not familiar with nursing classifications, all of the nurses affected by this legislation are registered nurses who have received additional graduate level education and have been certified in a particular specialty. It is important to clarify some terminology in this bill. Under LB 256, current advanced practice registered nurses will be called nurse practitioners. All registered nurses who are certified as