

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

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LB 994

Veterans' Homes to the list of exempt appointed positions within the Department of Health and Human Services. Eight, operative date and emergency clause: The bill has an operative date of July 1, 2006, for Sections 1 through 12, 14 through 24, 34 through 37, and 40; with an emergency clause. That will conclude the opening. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Mr. Clerk, amendments to the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the bill is by Senator Jensen, AM2157. (Legislative Journal page 766.)

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Jensen, to open on AM2157.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, AM2157 was introduced and signed by all seven members of the Health and Human Services Committee. It was brought to us by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System in response to changes made by the Deficit Reduction Act, I'll refer to that as DRA, that was recently passed by Congress. The committee was thoroughly briefed on the issue and the amendment by HHSS. The DRA was signed by President Bush on February 8 of this year, and the DRA makes changes to the Temporary Assistance of Needy Families, or TANF program, and the DRA requires state to obtain much higher work participation rates for the ADC program recipients, starting in October 1 of 2006. If the new requirements are met...are not met, Nebraska could be sanctioned for more than \$6 point...or, excuse me, \$4.6 million in FY 2007. It starts in October 1 of 2006, and so we have one year to meet these requirements; otherwise, we could be sanctioned for \$4.6 million. Due to the passage of the DRA, AM2157 deletes a portion of three sections of Nebraska law that are outdated and not in compliance with federal statutes. The outdated language originated in September 1994, when Nebraska submitted a welfare reform waiver to the federal government. Since Nebraska's waiver was approved before the passage of the federal welfare legislation in 1996, the federal government approved Nebraska's policies that were not consistent with federal law until