

January 12, 1989

LB 18-29, 54, 374-388  
LR 4

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing and the question is the adoption of LR 4 introduced by Senator Bernard-Stevens. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the adoption of LR 4. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of LR 4.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LR 4 is adopted. Further bill introductions, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LBs 374-388 for the first time by title. See pages 200-203 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items, I have some Select File reports. Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports we have carefully examined and reviewed LB 18 and recommend that same be placed on Select File with E & R amendments attached, LB 19 Select File, LB 20 Select File, LB 21 Select File, LB 22 Select File with E & R amendments attached, LB 23 Select File, LB 24 Select File, LB 25 Select File with E & R amendments attached, LB 26 Select File with E & R amendments attached, LB 27 Select File, LB 28 and LB 29 to Select File, as well, Mr. President, all signed by Senator Lindsay as Chair of the Enrollment and Review Committee. (See pages 204-205 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Proceeding to item number six on today's agenda, a motion to rerefer. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Weihing moves to rerefer LB 54 from the Agriculture Committee to the Health and Human Services Committee. Senator Weihing offered his motion yesterday. It is found on page 194.

SPEAKER BARRETT: For purposes of objecting to the referencing of a bill, the Chair recognizes Senator Weihing. (Gavel.)

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I request to move this bill because I feel it is much more in the medical area, the health area, and, therefore, it should be first heard, if it is heard at all, in the Health and Human Services Committee. This bill is one which deals with cholesterol. Cholesterol has become a daily word within our

February 14, 1989      LB 147A, 224A, 350A, 361A, 375, 408A, 416  
535, 570, 629, 801

indefinitely postponed; LB 375, indefinitely postponed; LB 535, indefinitely postponed; LB 570, LB 629, LB 801, all indefinitely postponed, signed by Senator Hall as Chair of Revenue. (See page 742 of the Legislative Journal.)

New A bills, Mr. President. (Read LB 224A, LB 350A, LB 408A, LB 361A and LB 147A by title for the first time. See page 743 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Fine, thank you. We'll move on to LB 416.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 416 was introduced by Senator Robak. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Transportation Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Robak, please.

SENATOR ROBAK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't want to make light of this situation, but in my office we refer to this as the K-Mart blue light special. LB 416 permits the use of blue flashing lights in conjunction with red and white flashing lights on emergency vehicles. Current law only now uses...permits the use of red and white lights. However, several Nebraska jurisdictions are already using blue with red and white lights. Studies have shown that at night blue and white lights are more visible than red and white lights. The Columbus police chief surveyed over 30 law enforcement agencies in Nebraska and learned that 20 are currently using blue lights. There is some confusion as to whether or not law enforcement agencies have the authority to use blue lights. For example, a city attorney told a police chief that blue lights were authorized while the county attorney told him that they were not. However, since 20 jurisdictions already use the blue lights, obviously, other positive legal opinions have been rendered in this matter. In 1982 a similar bill was introduced in the Legislature. The reason it was defeated at that time was because there were no studies done then to determine the effectiveness of blue lights. Those studies now have been done and they conclusively show that blue lights are much easier for motorists to see at night. During the day red lights are better, but the addition of blue at night greatly increases the visibility of the emergency vehicle. The other arguments were that if the lights were mandatory, it would be too expensive for