

March 20, 1990

LB 107, 1059  
LR 365-378

from the staff of the Educational Committee when they prepared a worksheet on LB 107 that I introduced last year. They have come up statewide, total students, of 246, and total aid would amount to just a trifle over \$30,000. So with that explanation, I would like to ask your support for this amendment to 1059.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Hefner was closing on his amendment to LB 1059. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam Chairman, I'd ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Hefner is requesting a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 2 nays to go under call.

SENATOR LABEDZ: The house is under call. All unauthorized personnel, please leave the floor. All senators in their offices, return to the Chamber and record your presence. Senator Schmit, the house is under call. Senator Chambers, Senator Langford, the house is under call, please return to the Chamber. We are looking for Senator Chambers, Senator Schmit. We are looking for Senator Chambers, the house is under call. Senator Hefner, can we proceed. I believe Senator Chambers is on his way up. Mr. Clerk, call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 1510 of the Legislative Journal.) 19 ayes, 19 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR LABEDZ: The amendment fails. Do you have anything else on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I do, Madam President. May I read some items in the record?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, you may.

CLERK: Madam President, I have a series of study resolutions, LR 365-378 offered by a number of members.

SENATOR LABEDZ: The call is raised

April 9, 1990

LB 1031, 1129  
LR 368

override attempts to be made today when viewed from its impact on people. This is the \$2,225,000 appropriation for the '90-91 year for the mental retardation regions in the State of Nebraska. We debated this at some length. I'm not going to take a lot of time introducing it, so I will close the opening statement on that tone.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For discussion purposes the Chair recognizes Senators Wesely, Warner and Hannibal. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I wasn't here when the original amendment was adopted to the bill to provide for this additional funding. Had I been here, I would have argued against that amendment and the way it was offered. The reason is not so much that I opposed additional funding for mental retardation services, but the fact that language was stricken from the bill that would have provided for individual client contracts, after July 1st of this year. And that proposal was contained in a bill that was introduced by Senator Warner and myself in the Health and Human Services Committee, LB 1129. Actually a much broader concept was introduced at that time to try and reform the mental retardation system in the state, to recognize that we had a serious problem, a serious crisis occurred this last six months in that system, and that we needed to look at some changes to provide for greater communication and greater accountability. We should not allow a situation like that to repeat itself, as we're looking now at a two some...2.2 million dollar question right now. This problem then is perpetuated into the future, unless some changes are made. Now, we have introduced a study resolution which will be a priority of the...the number one priority of the Health and Human Services Committee, LR 368, to look at the service system, the mental retardation system. We have been allocated \$75,000 to do that study, and I plan to spend a great deal of time on that, and feel that this Legislature is dedicated to studying this very important problem. But the question before us is, do we or do we not support an override of the Governor's veto and expend another 2.2 million dollars in this area? This is not an easy question for me. If we had adopted this additional money with some accountability language, some additional accountability language included in that appropriation, I would have felt very comfortable with that change. Because then what we would have said, the message would have been, yes, we're willing to expend money to meet our mental retardation needs,