

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Appropriations Committee
January 27, 2009

[LB135]

The Committee on Appropriations met at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, in Room 1003 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LB135. Senators present: Lavon Heidemann, Chairperson; John Harms, Vice Chairperson; Tony Fulton; Heath Mello; Jeremy Nordquist; Danielle Nantkes; and John Wightman. Senators absent: John Nelson, Tom Hansen. []

SENATOR HARMS: (Recorder malfunction)...Danielle Nantkes, Senator Nantkes from Lincoln, District 46; Senator Wightman, who's from District 36; and Anne, who will be serving as our committee clerk; and Senator Lavon Heidemann, who's the Chair. I'm just...he's going to be the introducer of this bill, but we'll get a chance to hear from you in just a few minutes. And our fiscal analyst is Liz. My name is John Harms. I'm Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee, represent the 48th District; and Heath Mello from Omaha, District 5. And our page is Justin. And I would ask you to shut off your cell phones. It would be most appreciated if they're not ringing. If you're going to testify, there's a sheet back that you can fill out and we'd appreciate that. If you're not going to testify, you can also...there's a sheet back there that you can fill out for us. We would appreciate that. At the beginning of your testimony, if you would simply spell your name out for us. If you have printed material, please make sure that you have 12 copies. It would be appreciated. As our Chair would say to you, keep your testimony to the point and concise, five minutes, but we'll take anything, is that correct? []

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: (Laugh) Sorry, John. []

SENATOR HARMS: Okay. Senator Heidemann. []

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: (Exhibit 1) Good afternoon, Senator Harms and members of the Appropriations Committee. I'm Senator Lavon Heidemann, spelled H-e-i-d-e-m-a-n-n. I represent District 1 in southeast Nebraska and I'm here today to introduce LB135. LB606, passed in 2008, created the Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee and authorized stipends. An appropriation of \$15,000 was provided for operations in fiscal year '09, but the bill included a restriction that no funds could be used for personal services. Stipends are included under the personal service limit. LB135 removes the restriction and authorizes a personal service limit of \$15,000 to correct the error. Inclusion of the personal service limit will allow the authorized stipends to be paid. I am distributing a letter from Dr. Joann Schaefer, the Chief Medical Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services. Get a page to do that for us. It explains her support for this legislation. If there are any questions, I will try to answer them. [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: I would like to bring to your attention that Senator Tony Fulton has joined us. He's from Lincoln, District 29. Is there any questions? John, did you have a

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question? [LB135]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Well, I was going to ask, we authorized or did we really authorize stipends first when we passed the bill in 2008? Did we authorize stipends at that time but didn't think... [LB135]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I think that was part of the bill, yes. [LB135]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: ...they would fall within the personal services? [LB135]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Yes. This is pretty much just to correct an error to give them PSL to do what they need to do. [LB135]

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: Uh-huh, I understood that. I... [LB135]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Technical in nature. [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: Are there any other questions that you'd like to ask? I see none. Thank you very much, Senator. [LB135]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: I'll waive closing when it gets to that time. [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: Okay. Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak in favor of this bill? Those who might be opposed? Well, we thank you very much for taking time to be here and this hearing is now closed officially. [LB135]

SENATOR FULTON: Neutral. [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: Pardon me? [LB135]

SENATOR FULTON: Neutral testimony? [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: I'm sorry? [LB135]

SENATOR FULTON: Is there any neutral testimony? [LB135]

SENATOR HARMS: Oh, is there any...I'm sorry, is there any neutral testimony? I didn't bring that up. Well, we're closed. Thank you. Thanks, Tony. [LB135]

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Disposition of Bills:

LB135 - Placed on General File.

Chairperson

Committee Clerk