

January 9, 1976

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced.

CLERK: LB 37 introduced by the Retirement Committee and signed by the members thereof. Read title. There are no committee amendments or other amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hasebroock.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 37 would remove the \$10,000 ceiling on group life insurance in section 44-1615. This section is enabling legislation which permits public agencies to establish fringe benefit programs for their employees. The argument in favor of this bill are as follows, the original purpose of the ceiling was to prevent a state agency from providing an excess amount of group life insurance. However, this rationale is no longer applicable since the Nebraska state insurance program enacted in 1973 prohibits any state agency from providing insurance in addition to that provided under the Nebraska state insurance program. Two, providing a ceiling on group life insurance and not on any other type of group insurance coverage seems inconsistent. In section 44-1618, the Legislature grants exemptions from the ceilings for the employees of public power districts and the University of Nebraska. Four, the \$10,000 ceiling seems to serve no useful purpose and could be deleted. Fiscal impact of LB 37 would be minimal. Appearing in support of LB 37 was Don Elrod representing American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, John Lynch representing the NSEA. No one appeared in opposition to the bill. LB 37 was advanced to General File on a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, not voting. Voting aye, Hasebroock, Lewis, Goodrich, Stull and Marvel. Absent, one. Mr. President, I move that LB 37 be advanced to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: The question is the advancement of LB 37. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. LB 519.

CLERK: LB 519 introduced by the Ag Committee.

PRESIDENT: We will pass over LB 519 because Chairman Schmit is not here. Senator Frank Lewis, are you ready to proceed on LB 76? Do you want us to go ahead with it?

CLERK: LB 76 introduced by Senator Frank Lewis of the 46th District. Read title. There are no Committee amendments or other amendments pending.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this bill, and it was passed with a unanimous vote in the Retirement Committee, is simply a tax break bill. This provides that the school district, if they choose, may pay...this is if the school district chooses, their choice, they may pay the retirement for teachers, and of course, you understand what that would mean in terms of taxation for the employee.