

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Yes, Senator Sieck, optometrists have always been able to do this if it is on the surface of the eye. They can take a cotton swab or an ophthalmic device and remove it. They can do that now.

SENATOR SIECK: Thank you. I will support LB 131, and I feel since the 407 was passed, which I was very concerned about, personally, but I did vote for it at that time, and since the review committee has studied this, and come up with the bill, and it seems like all sides are favorable, I think we should go with it and advance this bill and get it up for Final Reading. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Morehead, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President, members of the body, like those preceding me I also rise in support of this legislation. Originally, I supported it, and then I had some misgivings the next time that the issue was presented to me. But, fortunately, the 407 process did come along. Like many of you, I felt uncomfortable making a decision that was so wholly in the medical field. The 407 process, along with the fact that members of my staff have had the opportunity to visit some on site training places, now make me very comfortable in my support of this particular piece of legislation. One of the things that particularly bothered me was just what kind of training did the optometrists have that would qualify them for the privileges that they were asking. There are two things that now bring me to accepting this. Number one, when I view the fact that dentists and podiatrists have probably less training in wholistic medical approaches than do optometrists in their profession, this says something to me because podiatrists and dentists have the privilege of dispensing this kind of therapeutic medication. Secondly, oftentimes optometrists and general practitioners are compared in their capability to deliver medical services to a person needing eye care. Then I stop to think about the combination or comparison of courses that the general practitioner has in addressing eye care as to what the optometrist has. I think that medical doctors come through the basic first two years of medicine, biomedical courses that optometrists do. But then they go on to specialize, and I think this is very important. Before you I've had passed around a summary sheet of courses that are offered at one of the finest continuing education