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April 8, 1998 LB 1166, 1354

amendments for LB 1354.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question before you is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 1354. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The E & R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk, first amendment.

CLERK: Senator Stuhr would move to amend.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Stuhr on the amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Madam President and members. This amendment originally was LB 1166, better known as the tattooing bill. It did advance from General File with a vote of 6-0, and I wanted to point out that currently Nebraska has no state law prohibiting the tattooing or body piercing of minors, and this amendment would prohibit the tattooing or body piercing of any minor without the written consent or the presence of the parent or the legal guardian, or a notarized written consent. These statements would be retained for one year, and that was changed from a previous five years. Violation of this section would be a Class III misdemeanor. This all came about by a local incident involving about four or five 12-year-olds in my community that received tattoos without their parent consent. And we feel that this is certainly a concern that oftentimes minors are not aware of the health and social effects and consequences of this process being done. There are 27 states that currently do have regulations in regards to tattooing, and half of those states are either by a criminal code violation or pertaining to permits or licensing. In 1997, tattooing was the sixth fastest growing retail business, and just a couple of things on the complications and health concerns of this procedure, there could possibly be skin allergies, infection, tissue damage, tuberculosis, hepatitis, transmission of venereal diseases and AIDS. Also with the mouth piercing, we are finding out that the dentists are very concerned about the ramifications to chipped teeth, scaring and infections, and possibly impeding speech. I did want to make this point that we feel that in Nebraska it would be importance...very important to have such a law on our statutes, but at this time, I have been informed that it could be unconstitutional. So I am withdrawing this