

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 2000 LB 171, 352, 628, 833, 1115
LR 331-332

oversight and to improve the economic climate for the blind by addressing issues surrounding employment, to capture more federal funds which are more than are currently available but they are under utilized. I know there is some debate regarding the effect upon federal funds and some questions about the loss. But we have...we have direct information from the entity in the federal government that that is not so, that the federal funds would still be forthcoming. And perhaps as a freestanding commission they might be able to leverage even more. In the past HHS has provided indirect administrative support to the services for the blind. However, the commission will still be able to use indirect administrative support from the Department of Administrative Services and the Attorney General's Office, the Auditor's Office and so on. So we should find that the fiscal impact with regard to the funds will be significantly different. There shouldn't be any loss of federal funds. And when we set up the new commission, it should operate very much like the Commission for the Hearing Impaired and deaf people. I'd like to finish by saying, and then if you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them. We do have an amendment coming. Blind people, as a whole, are very self-sufficient, hard-working people in all kinds of professional and other kinds of jobs. They do have the handicap of not being able to see. But, as I said, as a whole, they are very self-supportive and highly intelligent people. So I think that their time has come to allow them to control their own destiny, and that's why I think this commission is so important to them and so important for us to move this bill today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Redfield, an amendment to LB 1115; Senator Coordsen, LB 628; Senator Dierks, LB 833; Senator Beutler, LB 171; Senator Wickersham, LB 171; Senator Brashear, LB 1115. Notice of hearing from Government Committee. (Read LR 331-332 by title for the first time.) That will be laid over, Mr. President. That's all that I have, thank you. (Legislative Journal pages 1136-1142.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Jensen, on the committee amendments.