

March 26, 1979

LB 298, 116

the purpose of LB 298 is to make some clarification with respect to LB 138 which was passed in 1977. 138 authorized and set up a procedure for licensing, certification or whatever of paramedics and previously in the State of Nebraska there were no provisions for paramedics to function in this state. There were technical problems with LB 138 as a result of an Attorney General's opinion that indicated that LB 138 was too vague to allow the Department of Health to issue rules and regulations as far as the paramedics were concerned. That is the purpose of LB 298, to make those clarifications so that the rules and regulations of the Department of Health can be enacted and paramedics can come into being and operation in the State of Nebraska. Without this piece of legislation and considering the Attorney General's opinion on this matter it would not be possible for paramedics to function in Nebraska. The bill provides for three classifications of paramedics and sets out the duties of each class. The definitions are added for approved licensed positions and physicians and trainees. We have struck the language in the committee amendments relative to approved licensed physicians. The Department of Health is given specific authority to adopt rules and regulations and I think that this covers the contents of the bill. Again, it is needed if we are going to have paramedics operating in the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of 298 as amended. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the advancement of 298 as amended. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the bill is advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, first of all on LB 116 Senator Cope would like to have his name added as cointroducer.

SPEAKER MARVEL: If there are no objections, so ordered.

CLERK: (Read title to LB 116.) The bill was read on January 8. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee. There are Appropriation Committee amendments pending to the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: First of all we need a discussion and a vote on the committee amendments to 116. The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.